SPORTS / A31
Ateneo scores 3-peat, beats FEU, 65-62

WORLD / A29
Vatican bank probed for money laundering

NEWS / A22
PNP chief : 90% of arrests tainted with rights violations

NEWS / A17
Smuggling charges vs small oil firm with ₱8.5B imports filed

ENTERTAINMENT / G1
PDI visits brand-new set of 'Glee'

FLYING HIGH Ateneo's Emman Monfort soars to block a shot by FEU's RR Garcia as the game's MVP Ryan Buenafe looks on. ALEJO TELA CRUZ

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, October 1, 2010 ★★ Vol. 25 / No. 295

Euro landmarks guarded amid fresh terror fears

LONDON—Police increased their guard around Buckingham Palace and other landmarks on Wednesday as security officials monitored what they described as a fledgling terror plot to stage Mumbai-style shooting sprees or other attacks on Britain, France or Germany.

US President Barack Obama has received several briefings and American

FUNG A17

Aquino faces threat of excommunication

PRESIDENT AQUINO: It has come to this.

BISHOP NEREO ODCHIMAR: We will exhaust all peaceful means.

TOUCH ME NOT Holding up a placard with the word Damaso on it, tourist guide Carlos Celdran causes a stir at the Manila Cathedral when he screams at the clergy during Mass to get out of politics. Damaso, an abusive Spanish friar, is immortalized in Rizal's "Noli me Tangere."

Protester shouts at bishops: 'Damaso!'

By Philip C. Tubeza

RAISING THE ANTE in their conflict over birth control, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) president yesterday said President Aquino could be "excommunicated" if he actively promoted the distribution of artificial contraceptives to Filipino couples.

Mr. Aquino, a practising Catholic, recently signified support for couples who would want to limit the number of their children by using contraceptives. His statement has been taken to mean he would favor government distribution of contraceptives to them.

"Being the President of all, you must consider the position of the Catholic Church because we are approaching this issue from the moral aspect," the CBCP president, Bishop Nereo Odchimar, said on Church-run Radio Veritas.

"Abortion is a grave crime. Excommunication is attached to those. That is an issue of grave sin that is a violation of God's commandment," he stressed.

Asked if Mr. Aquino could be excommunicated if he promoted the distribution of contraceptives, the CBCP president said: "That is a possibility."

AQUINO A6

Syjuco spent ₱66M on GMA T-shirts, ₱25M for Sarah ads

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WHAT have scholarships and training programs got to do with T-shirts emblazoned with the image of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo?

Dr. Augusto Syjuco, then chief of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) and now a House representative, dancing with actress Sarah Geronimo on TV ads?

Syjuco forked out P134.393 million to promote Tesda's scholarship and training programs, nearly half of which was spent printing Arroyo T-shirts, it was revealed yesterday during a budget hearing for Tesda.

Sen. Franklin Drilon said he was surprised why Syjuco splurged P66 million to promote the President Gloria Scholarship Program last year.

"I can't even imagine how many T-shirts were made from all this money," Drilon said in a press conference after the hearing, where the new management led by Joel Villanueva vowed to look deeper into Syju-

SYJUCO A17

Gov't now feeding 1.5M day-care kids

By Kristine L. Alave

THE DEPARTMENT of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) yesterday launched its Supplemental Feeding Program targeting 1.5 million children in day-care centers.

Under the program aimed at addressing malnutrition, the children are to be fed a hot meal daily with rice purchased from the National Food Authority (NFA).

About 70 children between the ages of three and five were served chicken afritada with rice at yesterday's launch at Barangay 721 Day-care Center on Leveriza Street in Manila.

For some of the children, their meal at the day-care center will

GOV'T: A6

COMFORT FOOD Day-care center pupils eat during the launch by DSWD of the supplemental feeding program in Manila on Thursday.

Touchy 'Fili' tour guide arrested for 'Noli' poster

By Philip C. Tubeza and Cathy C. Yaneuan

MUCH SOUGHT-AFTER tourist guide Carlos Celdran was arrested by police yesterday afternoon for protesting the Catholic Church's opposition to the reproductive health (RH) bill during an ecumenical service at Manila Cathedral.

Standing in front of the main altar, Celdran shouted that the Church should "stop getting involved" in politics during a reve-

TOUCHY: A6

17 senators ask Noy to amnesty Trillanes, etc

By Christian V. Esguerra and Cynthia D. Balana

SEVENTEEN SENATORS have signed a resolution urging President Aquino to grant amnesty to soldiers jailed for involvement in failed uprisings against the previous administration, including their colleague, Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

In Senate Resolution No. 217, Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said "rightist elements, including the soldiery, should also be extended the

17 SENATORS A17

Robredo tipped off: Puno, Verzosa receiving millions from 'jueteng'

By Christian V. Esguerra

LOCAL GOVERNMENT Secretary Jesse Robredo was not secretly to the dark on allegations that his deputy Interior Undersecretary Rico E. Puno, and then Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Verzosa were receiving millions in "jueteng" payola.

As early as Aug. 10—or before the two officials were named in a Senate inquiry as receiving between P5 million and P6 million in jueteng payoffs monthly—Robredo called their attention in a letter that also sought a "comprehensive solution" to the problem.

"I wrote a letter to Usec Puno and Chief PNP Verzosa," he said at the continuation of the Senate investigation yesterday.

"The purpose of that letter was essentially to tell them that

ROBREDO A19

Small budget: VP on short fuse

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

IT'S NOT about height.

Vice President Jejomar Binay yesterday felt slighted that despite being the second most powerful man in the country, he had the tiniest budget among offices of the Aquino administration.

At the Senate budget hearing, Binay aired his gripes about how the Department of Budget and Management slashed his 2011 budget from his desired P199 million to roughly P17.6 million.

VICE PRESIDENT'S A16

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila		Visayas	
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Boracay	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Aparri	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Mac. Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Pagudpud	Mostly Cloudy	Dumaguete	Mostly Cloudy
Legaspi	Mostly Cloudy	Tagbilaran City	Mostly Cloudy
Catarman	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo	Mostly Cloudy

Second FRONT PAGE

6/42	
2010	25 32
2009	29 11
2008	8 15

SUERTRES	
2D	4 3 7
3D	6 2 0
4D	9 1 9

SIX DIGIT	
Jackpot	6 6 1 5 5 1

6/45 LUZ-VIS-MIN	
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	P13,892,900.00

SUPER LOTTO 6/49	
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	P11,190,765.00

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RP trafficking record: $250M at stake

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE PHILIPPINES could lose $250 million in American aid if the country fails in its efforts to curb human trafficking, a former labor official said yesterday.

In a press conference at the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa), former Labor Undersecretary Jason "Ecoy" Ople said US Ambassador Harry Thomas told a group of Filipinos that the country was "at risk" of losing P11 billion or $250 million in Americans aid if the government did not show "significant progress" in cracking down on human trafficking.

"We are at risk. We need to show that we are really committed to fighting trafficking. This would be manifested in the number of convictions," Ople said.

"They are also concerned about labor trafficking because they know that many Filipinos are stranded in different corners of the globe and they have yet to have of a case or cases filed and won against those who had abused them," she added.

She said Thomas had given the warning two months ago to a group of Filipinos involved in the fight against human trafficking.

"I was with a small group of people invited by the ambassador to discuss these things several (two) months ago," Ople said.

She also said the Americans had an anti-trafficking law that directs the US State Department to monitor efforts of every country against trafficking.

"From 2009's scroll here, we have been on the (Tier 2) watch list. Under that same law, if a country has been on the Tier 2 watch list for two consecutive years, they are automatically downgraded in Tier 3 to the third year unless there are significant efforts," Ople said.

"That's why the President, the justice, labor, and foreign affairs departments are really trying to show our significant efforts," she added.

'At risk'

"But US law also says that when a country is on the Tier 3 (watch list), the US government can defer or withhold non-humanitarian assistance," Ople said.

"In our case, we asked the US Embassy about the bad pack figure ...and it's around P1.3 billion or $250 million," she said.

"They did not give a breakdown but I guess even the broadcount for Mindanao could be at risk. That is the word they used—'at risk,'" Ople said.

Trafficking schemes foiled

In the same press conference, labor officials announced the foiling of a "large-scale human trafficking scheme" to bring Filipinos to the United States.

Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said the government had suspended the operations of 2Victor Inc., a recruitment agency, after it allegedly duped 24 Filipinos who were promised work in the United States.

She said the victims endured subhuman work conditions in the States.

She said criminal and administrative charges had been filed against 2Victor, which has denied any wrongdoing.

Ople said the country registered 300 cases of human trafficking since 2003 but the government has secured only 18 convictions.

AirPORT officials tighten security checks when VIPs are around, like in this case when President Aquino left for the United States and Malacañang guards guide K-9 dogs on check for bombs or illegal stuff from a queue of elderly passengers leaving the same plane as Mrs. Aquino's.

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Here's how you can view the monthly status:

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The General Public, Civil Society Organizations/Non-Governmental Organizations and other stakeholders are encouraged to monitor and provide feedback on the DPWH projects. Please bear with us as we continue to transform DPWH.

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Tech firm launches award for 'green' journalism

A GERMAN technology company has launched an awards program for environmental journalism in print and online media platforms in Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

In a press statement, Siemens, a technology firm that is promoting what it's called green infrastructure, said entries for the Siemens Green Technology Journalism Award 2010 must be published from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2010.

Entries published in magazines, newspapers or websites would be accepted but the Professional Journalist Group, Entries published in exclusive publications would be accepted under the Young Journalist Group.

All entries would be judged in English, the statement said. Authors of stories written in their native languages are encouraged to translate their works into English.

"Building on awareness of green issues is the first step toward 'walking the talk' as we do at Siemens," the statement quoted Jacky Chan, chief executive officer of Siemens Inc. Phils, as saying.

Entries would be judged according to news value, relevance and three other categories—energy efficiency, industrial productivity and sustainability. Writing and language techniques also count.

Local panels of judges would submit the best articles from each country to a regional jury, who would pick the final winners.

Deadline for submission of entries is on Dec. 31 at 11 p.m. Registration details and more information are available at www.siemens.com.ph.

Witness: Ampatuans brought gunmen for slays

'When they pass, we will shoot them...'

A WITNESS in the trial of the country's worst political massacre testified Wednesday that the Ampatuan clan mobsted in position days ahead of the attack and warned locals to flee the coming bloodbath.

Prosecution witness Marcelito Mayong, 33, told the court at least 60 heavily armed men arrived in his village Datu Nov. 20, 2009 and took orders from Datu Ampatuan, of the powerful Maguindanao political clan, many of whose members have been charged with the grisly massacre.

Datu Ampatuan is accused of planning and taking part in the Nov. 23, 2009 massacre of 57 people, including 32 journalists, in Maguindanao province.

"Datu told me and my neighbor, Alfonso who have children must leave because when the Maguindanao pass we will shoot them even if they are with soldiers," Mayong said.

Politics

The Ampatuans are accused of abducting the victims at gunpoint, taking them to an isolated area and shooting them dead as part of a plan to clap a member of a rival clan, Esmael Mangudadatu, from running for Maguindanao governor.

Mangudadatu's first for office, Andal Ampatuan Jr., along with 16 police officers are on trial in connection with the massacre, which left 32 journalists, two lawyers, an aide and several of Mangudadatu's relatives dead.

Andal Jr.'s father, Andal Ampatuan Sr., his uncle Datu Ampatuan and three other dominant members of the clan are among the 196 defendants.

The other defendants include officers and members of the local police and paramilitary units, labeled by the state as bodies forces, along with three police cars parked outside the local mosque.

Gov't forces

Mayong, whose testimony is scheduled to continue next Wednesday, said the first armed men he saw three days before the massacre were local police and militia forces, along with three police cars parked outside the local mosque.

Some of those Ampatuan's source lived later in the day and the following day, by which time they numbered at least 100, he said.

Mayong, a farmer, said he recognized Ampatuan because he bought rice from local producers.

MAGUINDANAO massacre primary accused Datu Andal Ampatuan Jr. talks with his lawyer Siegfried Fortun in the courtroom before the start of hearing at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig.

"He's the local tough guy. He has many armed escorts wherever he goes and people tend to get out of his way," he said.

Mayong was only the second witness to testify against the Ampatuans.

Plot meeting

The first, a former servant of the Ampatuan family, told the court under cross-examination on Wednesday how he witnessed the Ampatuan dollychum plot to kill Mangudadatu during a meeting on Nov. 17, 2009.

Meanwhile, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday said the government has a "priority list of accused" in the Maguindanao massacre which it wants to be tried by the court to expedite the resolution of the case.

However, De Lima said, some 37 of those principal accused, a number of whom are members of the Ampatuan clan, are still at large with the police still hunting them down.

"We are really focusing on the prosecution of what we call the priority list [of] accused ... so that we can also plan our moves and we can target a particular time line in terms of expeditiously going about the [trial]," she told a press conference.

At large

Of the 196 people charged for the massacre, only a few dozen are in jail.

Andal Jr. is the only one being tried now by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

His father, Andal Sr., brothers, Zaldy, and other accused relatives have various motions pending before the courts.

The families of the Quezon City Jail threats at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig has asked the judge trying the case to place the group of accused policemen in separate facilities.

Chief Insp. Emelito Mesa asked Quezon City Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes to allow the separation of Chief Insp. Sukarno Ibnay from the other accused policemen.

Spat in jail

In a letter to Solis-Reyes, Mesa cited a recent "misunderstanding" that occurred between Ibnay and other police officers inside the cell where the policemen were being kept.

Mesa said the incident started when some of the witnesses for the prosecution showed signs of wanting to change their testimonies in favor of the Ampatuans.

"The confrontation was between several policemen who want to remain witnesses for the prosecution and those who want to align with the Ampatuans," Mesa said.

The window did not identify the policemen who had allegedly changed sides.

Saying that the facility has no available cell to separate Ibnay from the other detainees, Mesa asked for his "immediate transfer" to either the Manila District Jail, also in Camp Bagong Diwa, or the Philippine National Police Custodial Center in Camp Crame.

Mesa said Ibnay's transfer was necessary to maintain order inside the facility. *AFP with reports from Dhia Dijon and Nancy Carvajal*

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Search for Roco award nominees to expand

MASA CITY—Organizers of award-giving body Youth S. Roco Youth Achievement Awards, which recognizes outstanding youth groups in the Bicol Region for socially conscious projects, are expanding their search for awardees nationwide.

Dolores Nolasco-Rivera-Jon of the Youth S. Roco Library here, said the body is planning to widen the awards scope in 2011, after almost five years of honoring recognition to youth groups in the Bicol Region.

The award awards program is now on its fourth year since its launch on Oct. 16, 2007. Marina Buena-ada, inspirator Southern Luzon

Theft of phone leads to raids on working kids

BAGUIO CITY—The city government is crushing down on child labor, including street children who offer to carry the market bags of tourists, after Pangasinan Rep. Gina de Venecia blamed them for the theft of her mobile telephone on Sept. 24 during a visit here.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan said these children insisted they were innocent, after he and several law enforcers quizzed them about the theft.

"Their parents already told us they were willing to die because they were not lying. I don't know why they felt their lives were in danger, but the children had already made up their minds," he said at a Wednesday news conference.

Alternative

He said his only alternative is to issue a new administrative order prohibiting children from marketing in the market, others as tiked baggage boys or as plastic bag dealers.

In Dagupan City De Venecia said she did not want the report about the theft to go overboard "because I do not want to affect the tourism industry of Baguio."

She said she was buying vegetables shortly after noon at the Baguio City public market when two boys offered to carry her bags.

She said she accepted "so they can earn a little," but she claimed that a girl had started to walk away.

"I asked the girl to move away a little because it was hot. The girl warned me to be careful as I might lose something and blame her," De Venecia said.

As soon as she was done with her marketing, De Venecia said she gave the two children P100 each before she proceeded to a restaurant. But when she was about to use her mobile phone, she said it was no longer in her vest pocket.

Stubborn

The lawmaker said she asked her staffers to return to the market but the girl was nowhere to be found, prompting them to report the theft to the police.

Police recorded up the suspects before De Venecia informed Ex-Pangasinan.

De Venecia said she asked the girl to return her telephone's memory card, which contained valuable contact numbers.

"I told her I have forgiven her and even promised to send her to school. But she stubbornly denied she took my phone. I think these children are under protection of syndicates," she said.

The children have been handed back to the custody of their parents because they are in some form criminal act, although the case itself has not been filed, Domogan said.

He said the new directive would cover other aspects of street labor. Vincent Dabu-asan and Yolanda Gerala, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Tourism school seen boost to Subic trade

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The tourism sector promises to be the engine of the new economic miracle in this former naval base and a school that caters to the industry is key to the eventual realization of the freeport's potential, according to a top official of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza said the International School of Sustainable Tourism (ISST) "could play a major role in promoting partnerships and shared learning among stakeholders in the tourism sector."

Low-cost manufacturing initially fueled the growth of this former military base in the early 1990s.

"The Subic economy depends on highly-diversified industries, but it is best in tourism, where we are investment-driven," Arreza said in a statement.

The ISST, which supports his the tourism sector's training institute for trainers, is scheduled to open on March 2011.

The school is headed by former Tourism Secretary Mina Gabon, who is a consultant of the World Tourism Organization. Robert Ilemaga, Inquirer Central Luzon

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'Jueteng,' politics share Laguna spotlight

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—A top village official, who was named as one of the operators of jueteng in Laguna, is up for reelection in the Barangay Sinalhan polling Kabalasan elections in October, according to his younger brother.

Gener Amante, 61, a current fly the presidency of the Association of Barangay Captains in San Pablo City said a working relative in Barangay San Jose.

He is also the eldest brother of incumbent and long-time San Pablo City Mayor Vicente Amante.

At a House hearing in Manila, jueteng whistleblower Jaime Caro listed the names of Irene Amante and a certain Totoy Herrera as suspected jueteng operators in Laguna.

Gener's younger brother, Dante, 55, said in a phone interview that he can't comment on his older brother's activities.

Dante said he was unaware of Caro's allegations against his brother, saying he hasn't seen Cajayo because he spends most of his time in Sta. Cruz, the capital town of Laguna.

"It is best that he personally answer those questions," said Dante.

Dante was recently elected as president of the Philippine Councilors League Laguna chapter.

In August, Laguna 3rd District Rep. Maria Evita Arago wrote Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo to conduct a thorough investigation on the proliferation of jueteng in the province.

"This representation is writing to your good office on behalf of our constituents in the 3rd district of Laguna regarding the rumored and active operation of jueteng in the district, mainly particularly in the city of San Pablo, as reported by our community leaders and concerned citizens from various barangays," Arago's letter read.

Aniano in the local government and police also named the elder Amante as a jueteng financier, but claimed that the mayor had distanced himself from his brother's illegal activities.

"He would most likely refuse to take calls right now for security reasons because we are nearing the elections," Ilanes said, when the business sought his help to arrange an interview with Cajayo.

Efforts to seek comment from Mayor Amante, through his aides, also turned futile.

A report from the Philippine National Police headquarters said there were 75 cases of jueteng in Laguna. Marlon Clavio, Inquirer Southern Luzon

'BOOKIES'

Lottery collectors slam expansion plans

LUCENA, CITY—Small Town Lottery bet collectors have warned that opening the doors to many STL franchise holders would only add trouble to the operations of the state-sponsored gambling activity.

"Bukod-tanan' (bet collectors) and 'sabay' (supervisors) welcome any proposed increase of incentive by as little as one sentimo per (but there would be several STL operators in every town. It will be troublesome," Mario Pineda, an STL bet collector in Lucena, said in an interview.

Pineda said the planned allocation of STL franchises to interested bankers in every municipality would only produce more gamblers.

"Binap collectors will ask bettors where to place bets. Will it be Sulo sa Tayabas (town)', 'Sulo sa Lucban', 'Sulo sa Pagbilao', etc. And based on our experience, the house will place bets with as many bankers as his money can allow," he said.

Trust

Pineda added: "Well, it's good for the collectors in terms of commission, but in the long run, it will be bad. Unsuspicious new bankers may introduce cheating to players and recoup their investments in the shortest possible time. That will result to loss of trust from the bettors public."

He said holding a centralized draw for the whole province would not solve the problem.

"Centralized draws work by only for a single operator. But for lots of bankers, material and suspicion will always be there," he said will have confusion ing.

Another bet collector said the gambling business is not like any other enterprise.

"There should be trusted ryan and respect between the employers and the bankers. And it cannot be established over night but only after long years of businessman relationship. The banker should always be there wherever he is needed by his men. For new bankers, this won't be easy," Noel Dolores said.

Charges

According to Jose Ferdinand Rojas, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) general manager, the new STL guidelines will introduce changes to forestall employees and encourage local operators in every municipality where the lottery draws will be held in public places.

Jose Tirazona Gonzalez, president of Tirazona Corp., the franchise holder of STL in Quezon province, said the company will hold a board meeting to discuss the proposed changes in the lottery operations.

"As one of their legitimate partners, we are ready to sit down with the PCSO," he said over the phone.

However, he asked government protection from the illegal operations of "bookies."

"We're faithfully paying our taxes but these illegal lottery outlets continue to rob steps our legitimate operations," he said.

Fostering problem

STL bet collectors have long been complaining of rampant operations of text-related lottery outlets.

Bookies maintain unauthorized STL betting stations and also employ illegal bet collectors using legitimate lottery paraphernalia.

"The illegal operations are not conducting draws but just adopt the winning numbers of legal STL draw results.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo said the government is losing over P6 billion in revenues due to illegal gambling operations.

After the May 10 elections, illegal STL bookies have resumed their operations, notably in the central parts of Quezon, particularly in Lucena City.

Untouchable

Sources among police intelligence operatives said the rampant illegal lottery operations were being protected by relatives of incumbent local government officials.

In some instances, STL bet collectors themselves who operate the illegal STL bookies, making the illegal game "untouchable," said the police informant.

Senior Supt. Gleckon Schacner, Quezon police chief, said he had already ordered his men to launch an all-out war against any form of illegal gambling in the province, particularly illegal STL bookies. Joseph E. Hallare Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

A WOMAN counts bills and stacks coins, base from jueteng, bobby is having Owen over to a teenage son of a supervisor somewhere.

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Bishop says online bets to worsen gambling

CBCP

By Yolanda Sevilla

LUCENA CITY—Archbishop Emeritus Oscar Cruz said using the Internet to collect bets for Small Town Lottery (STL), proposed by a Batangas-based STL franchise holder, would simply lead to gambling addiction.

"If you allow online betting, you will make gambling more available to everybody, including young people, especially because of easy access to the Internet. You will just worsen the gambling situation in the country," Cruz said in a phone interview on Wednesday.

In a statement, Bernardito Bulatao, president of the Batangas Enhanced Technology Systems Inc. (BETS), the franchise holder of STL in Batangas, proposed online betting "to save lotteries from rampant cheating and corruption."

Software

Bulatao was quoted as saying his firm has the software to eliminate cheating and graft-ridden STL through online betting. He said his proposal would raise the revenue revenues for government.

But Cruz, who has been waging a campaign against all forms of gambling through the Kristong Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, said the "truth is that no gambling on the world has no health in cheating."

"In the end of the day, the operators always win and every day of the year, the public always loses. That is the truth," said Cruz, who has described STL as a front for the illegal numbers game jueteng.

Cruz said online betting would make the situation worse because it won't only make gambling addictive but create gambling addicts.

"The more facilities there are in a given place, the more gambling addicts there will be," he said.

Cruz, the former head of Lingayen-Dagupan Archdiocese in Pangasinan, said there was no need for the government board of Pangasinan to declare him "persona non grata" because "I have no plans at all of visiting the province (now Amado Espino Jr.) any time soon."

Costly ads

In a resolution published in several newspapers, board members protested the inclusion of Espino's name on the list of suspected financiers and enablers of jueteng provided by Cruz during the Senate blue ribbon committee hearing on illegal gambling last week.

"It is our common sentiment that anybody who malevolently attempts to destroy the credibility of the governor and endeavors to divert his attention performing his task of steering the province toward progress and development should be declared persona non grata in...Pangasinan," the resolution said.

Cruz said if Espino wants to sue him, "that is his option because he has all the power and the finances to do so."

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THE LANDMARK

MAKATI TRINOMA

Touchy 'Fili' tour guide arrested for 'Noli' poster

From page A1

more marking the second anniversary of the May They Be One Bible campaign, a joint effort by Catholics and Protestant leaders to distribute Bibles to five million poor Filipino families.

Pacquiao, a fourth-year cop rap fan, he held up a placard with the word Damaso, "referring to the hated Spanish friar in national hero Jose Rizal's novel "Noli Me Tangere."

Interviewed by phone late night on Station 5 of the Manila Police District, Caldivo said he was detained in "the juvenile jail cell together with some prostitutes and some other guy from Bicol (Mycotoxilogic) who has business operations."

"I kinda detained the [priests] what (civil disobedience) was like The Millennium Development Goals of the Philippines hinge on controlling the population and maternal health, but they have done nothing but lie and blackmail ... the Presidents and deprive the parents of the poor of reproductive health services," Caldivo hurled.

SPM Benjie Mabitaga said Caldivo was to remain in detention overnight depending on the city prosecutor's evaluation of his case.

'Listen to the people'

Mabitaga said Caldivo was taken in for violating Article 133 of the Revised Penal Code, for "offending religious feelings."

Caldivo told reporters after his arrest that he conducted his protest action because the bishops needed to "hear what the Filipinos are saying."

"Ninety percent of the people want the RH bill," he said.

Among those at the ceremony were Manila Archbishop Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales, the Papal Nuncio Archbishop Edward Adams, and other Catholic bishops.

Protestant Bishops Fred Magbanua of the Philippine Council for Evangelical Churches and Nathanael Lanaro, chair of the National Council of Churches of the Philippines and Rev. Rolland Pelilianes of the Union Church of Manila were also present.

"[Caldivo] should not have done that," said Amy Herrera, who attended the ceremony. "This is a private and solemn occasion. It reminded me of the [Aug. 23] hostage-taking."

Herrera said Caldivo entered the cathedral with a woman but did not immediately display his placard.

She said Caldivo came out through the door on the right side of the cathedral and returned later and walked to the front of the nave altar, with the placard in hand.

"At first I thought it was some sort of play that was part of the ceremony but he kept shouting, especially when someone took his placard. I was alarmed," Herrera said.

Another witness said Caldivo walked toward the front pew, where Rosales and the bishops were sitting.

"He was angry. I thought he was going to bash the cardinal with the placard," the witness said.

'I had enough'

Security men later apprehended Caldivo and led him away. He did not resist.

On the phone with the Inquirer, Caldivo recalled the afternoon's events:

"I finally had enough, so I brought a placard [to the Mass]. It took them a while to realize what I was doing, and when they did they could not look me in the eye.

"I started screaming, 'Stop pulling involved in politics!' I kept screaming until I could no longer, because they took me away. Why keep President Aquino hostage when reproductive health is the fundamental right of Filipinos?"

Caldivo said the Church apparently needed to be reminded "to respect the constitutional provision on the separation of Church and State."

"Threatening civil disobedience [because of the RH bill] was a low blow, so I just gave them a dose of their own," he said. "They can't take what they dished out to the citizens."

Caldivo said that as he neared shouting, "I felt strangely calm."

"People were smiling. A little boy, whom I recognized as one of the altar servers running around instructions, started clapping, and that gave me the strength to go on. That kid knows where I'm going," he said.

Caldivo, who identified himself as a member of the Filipino Freethinkers and Rational Humanists, said the groups were not aware of his protest plan.

"Please don't tell me other people don't want to do (what I did), (hopefully the President would) do the next step," he said without elaborating.

RIZAL NEXUS Tour guide Carlos Caldivo sits at the back of a police motorcycle on the way to a precinct in Intramuros, Manila, after he disrupted a Mass officiated by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales at Manila Cathedral on Thursday. He was brought to the MPD headquarters last night for further questioning. Cornelio Dacanay

Aquino faces threat of excommunication, says CBCP

From page A1

But Odchimar added: "Right now, it is not a prominent possibility." He said, however, that "we will look into that."

In an incident showing how birth control is an explosive issue, a popular tourist guide, Carlos Caldivo, was arrested yesterday afternoon after shouting in front of the altar of the Manila Cathedral during an ecumenical service. (See story on Page A2).

"Stop involving yourselves in politics!" Caldivo—who was dressed up like Rizal, wearing a barong and with a cap hat, on the day of his conviction—screamed inside the cathedral.

Caldivo held up a placard with the word "Damaso," referring to the hated Spanish friar in Jose Rizal's novel "Noli Me Tangere."

Papal nuncio present

Among those present at the ceremony were the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Edward Adams, Manila Archbishop Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales, and other bishops, including those from other denominations.

The ecumenical service marked the second anniversary of the May They Be One Bible campaign, a joint effort by Catholics and Protestant leaders to distribute 5 million Bibles to 5 million poor Filipino families.

Excommunication, or denial of the sacraments to a person, is the harshest penalty the Roman Catholic Church can impose on erring members. In the past, it has excommunicated dictators Juan Perón of Argentina and Fidel Castro of Cuba. (See *In the News* on this page)

Mr. Aquino could face directly sentences of excommunication for now, saying in a statement that his position on family planning had not changed and that he continued to advocate for the government to provide couples an informed choice to plan their families.

"We are all guided by our consciences. My position has not changed," the President said. "The state's duty is to educate our families as to their responsibilities and to respect their decisions if they are in conformity to our laws."

Invitation to dialogue

Odchimar said there had been no reply from Malacañang to the bishops' call for a dialogue.

"There is [a] letter of the Sixteen Archbishops, the CBCP issued an open letter asking our position that there should be a dialogue," Odchimar said.

"[But] we do not have any letters. Nine up to now... We don't want to be confrontational. We want dialogue. We are just waiting," he added.

Odchimar said he had talked to his bishops in Mindanao and the Visayas and they supported the calls by lay Catholic groups to hold protests against any government plan to distribute artificial contraceptives.

Asked if he will request the President, Odchimar said: "Basically... We will exhaust all possibilities. I must remind the dialogue. We will be discussing that when I go to Manila."

Odchimar says reportedly such issues as part of a line in the CBCP strongly opposed plans of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lahat sinkwati said sa'tbsp. Pnoquets (Pilay last year declared the bishop and Arroyo president which said that "in the case of an [automatic] penalty of excommunication attached on an offense, accomplices, even though not mentioned in the law or decree, incur the same penalty if, without their assistance, the crime would not have been committed."

Heads of states have been excommunicated in the past.

In 1958, Argentinian president Juan Domingo Perón was excommunicated after an antiCatholic campaign that involved the expulsion of bishops and the legalization of abortion and prostitution.

In 1962, Cuban dictator Fidel Castro was excommunicated by Pope John XXIII on the basis of a 1949 decree by Pope Pius XII prohibiting Catholics from supporting communist governments.

Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research

Sources: Inquirer Archives and Catholic Encyclopedia

IN THE KNOW

EXCOMMUNICATION refers to the exclusion of a person from the community of the Church for misconduct. It is the most severe penalty that the Catholic Church may inflict on an erring member.

In 2001, Msgr. Fedou Quiocho, then spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said automatic excommunication awaited women who take the "morning after" birth control pill and politicians in RH 4866. So said the drug was not only an abortifacient (induces abortion), but abortion itself.

In 2008, then CBCP President Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said those who supported abortion, even though not committing the act directly, "become accessories who motivate the people to commit sin."

Accomplices

Citing Canon Law 1398, Lagdameo said that a person who actually performs an abortion may automatically be excommunicated.

He also quoted another provision which says that "to the case of an [automatic] penalty of excommunication attached on an offense, accomplices, even though not mentioned in the law or decree, incur the same penalty if, without their assistance, the crime would not have been committed."

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Sources: Inquirer Archives and Catholic Encyclopedia

"We have been consistent with our position that we are against it. If the reason is the population problem is connected to poverty alleviation, I don't think population increase is a problem. (That) is not an issue," Odchimar said.

He said the bishops were "aware that there is much money (in the) lobby" for the passage of the bill.

"It's no open secret that the pharmaceuticals and laboratories will be the ones who will benefit, because they are the ones supplying the pills and other contraceptive devices," he said.

"We will be planning our next move ... We do not have police powers, we don't threaten the possibility of mobilizing the lay organizations," he said.

RH bill under study

Malacañang had no immediate response to calls by lawmakers for Mr. Aquino to testify in support the controversial RH bill.

"We have yet to see the RH bill and we have yet to review that," said presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

"It's unfair for us to testify something that we have not yet reviewed," he told reporters.

Lacierda said Mr. Aquino remained firm in his position to promote responsible parenthood.

"The decision to determine what size and what method should be with the parents as the decision makers. And whatever their informed choice may be, the State will help them, especially the poor," he said.

Certify the bill

Lacierda said the Palace had yet to hear from Catholic bishops on the openness of the President in talks with them to explain his family planning position.

He said the Palace wanted to know what had been the CBCP response to an invitation for a dialogue sent to them by Mr. Aquino, who was then a senator in February.

Lacierda said Senate [illegible] proposed the dialogue during the presidential campaign.

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said he would ask the President to certify the RH bill as a priority and that he himself would push for its approval even at the risk of incurring Church ire.

Senate lawmakers, however, pressed Mr. Aquino to heed the Church position, cautioning him against endorsing the measure that seeks to promote contraception and entails use of public funds.

Senator Pia Cayetano said she hoped if he can ratify the President if he can ratify that. Anyway he has taken the bullet already," Belmonte told reporters.

In general, the various bills on reproductive health call on the government to promote natural and artificial family planning methods of family planning, sex education and responsible parenthood.

Don't defy Church

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rolin Rodriguez warned Mr. Aquino against defying the Church on the RH bill.

"President Aquino should heed the request of the Church to reconsider the use of promotion of contraception. That is against the Constitution and the right of parents to rear children and determine the number of their children," Rodriguez said by phone.

He said the measure would entail the use of government funds to promote the use of contraceptives, and the prosecution of doctors who defy its mandate.

Bacolod City Rep. Anthony Golez, a former health undersecretary, also passed objections to the RH bill, saying that its enactment is a decisive early to protect life. With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio

Gov't now feeding 1.5 million day-care kids until December

From page A1

in their lives and meet nutritional for the day (60%) officials said nutritionists would plan the meals of meat and vegetables to ensure a good balance.

Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman said the programs would provide food to day-care children for the next three months.

The project will also provide support nutrition to children, caregivers and parents to learn about food and nutrition, the DSWD said.

The hot meals will be served during the class break five days a week starting this month until December.

"The parents will manage the feeding program based on a proposed meal cycle using available indigenous food resources," Soliman said.

The children will be weighed every month during the program to determine improvement in their nutritional status.

P1.2-B budget

The government will spend P1.2 billion for the feeding program.

There are 49,231 day-care centers nationwide, with some 1,567,000 children enrolled.

The size intended for the program will come from the supplus size imposed by the government through the RH, in the past few years.

It is not part of the lunch that contained in long storage in the warehouses, DSWD and BJMA of Nestle said.

They also said freight and cargo company ARGS had agreed to facilitate the delivery of 100 sacks of rice to be used for the feeding program from the DSWD-National Resource Operations Center to the DSWD-National Capital Region.

According to an early advisory to reporters, President Aquino was to have attended the program's launch. But he was a no-show.

Last invitation

But spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda, said the President had not confirmed attendance at the launch.

"It was a late invitation so there was nothing to cancel because he did not confirm he would be attending," Lacierda told reporters.

He said in reply to a question that the Aquino had private meetings yesterday and had been studying for the past two days the incident investigation Bevern Commission's report on the Aug. 23 hostage crisis vis-à-vis the result of the review made by a Palace legal team.

With a report from Christine O. Avendaño

Killer of RP maid in Saudi scot-free; no arrest, raps

By Jerry E. Esplanada

MORE THAN three weeks after the murder of Filipina maid Sumilao Thalice in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia, the kingdom's authorities have yet to arrest and file charges against the suspected killer—her Arab employer.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has assured Thalice's family that the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh was "coordinating closely with the Saudi authorities for a thorough investigation of the case."

The embassy has also been directed to engage the services of a lawyer to assist in the prosecution of the case.

John Leonard Monterona, regional director of the Riyadh-based Migrante-Middle East, said the group was "worried about the outcome of the case because the primary suspects are believed to be Saudi nationals."

"Suicide is the usual alibi of abusive Arab employers when their OFW [overseas Filipino worker] staff end up dead," Monterona said.

No police report

"Up to now, the embassy is still awaiting the police report on the alleged murder," he said.

The Arab News, a Riyadh-based broadsheet, earlier quoted Philippine Labor Attaché Daud Bin Dimaig as saying the police investigation report would soon be ready.

Dimaig also said the embassy was following up daily with the police station the status of the investigation.

Embassy representatives also quoted the Saudi policemen who had attended to Thalice that it was "impossible for the Filipina to have committed suicide by stabbing herself and ingesting acid at the same time."

Foul play

Citing an autopsy report, the DFA said Thalice died on Sept. 8 of multi-wounds in the neck, abdomen and wrist, as well as acid burns in the mouth area, and on the arms and legs.

A stone-empty container of sulfuric acid was taken from the scene by Saudi authorities, the the DFA also said.

Thalice was "taken to the King Fahd Hospital in Dammam, about 40 kilometers south-east of Al-Khobar and the capital of Saudi's eastern province] by the Red Crescent after she was found in the kitchen of her employer's residence," said a report by Vice Consul Paul Sison, the embassy's chief secretary.

The 22-year-old, who hails from North Cotabato, was survived by the DFA Solidarita Manpower Resources and Protection and sent to Al-Khobar supposedly as a nursing aide.

Her Thalice, who arrived in Saudi Arabia on May 21, ended up as a "household worker," according to the Philippine Overseas Labor Office-Eastern Region Operations.

Other woes

Meanwhile, Monterona has asked the DFA to facilitate the repatriation of 57 runaway Filipino migrant workers in Jeddah, and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration to provide the money for airfare.

The workers are currently staying at the Filipino Workers Resource Center, a facility attached to the Philippine Embassy in Jeddah.

"They are mostly victims of abuses and maltreatment in the workplace, which forced them to run away," said Monterona.

"Some of the runaways have been awaiting repatriation for over six months now," he said.

13,000 houses up for sale at fair

By Jerry E. Esplanada

MORE THAN 13,000 affordable housing units will be offered to Pag-Ibig Fund members during the three-day National Housing Fair, which opens today at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

This was announced yesterday by Vice President Jejomar C. Binay, also chair of the Housing and Urban Development Council (HUDCC).

The pieces of property to be offered are located in Metro Manila, Bicol, Mindoro, Cavite and Laguna.

"The fair will help our countrymen, especially minimum-wage earners, government employees, the self-employed and OFWs obtain affordable homes," said Binay.

The available house-and-lot units are part of the "acquired assets inventory" of the HUDCC-attached agencies like the Pag-Ibig Fund, Home Guaranty Corp., National Housing and Mortgage Finance Corp., Social Housing Finance Corp., National Housing Authority, and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board.

Other participating agencies include the state-run Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The government agencies would be joined by private sector housing institutions, such as the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Inc., Chamber of Real Estate Builders Association, National Real Estate Association, and the Organization of Socialized Housing Developers of the Philippines.

PCSO admits gambling lords have infiltrated STL

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) yesterday said that its supposed "jueteng" killer, Small Town Lottery (STL), has been infiltrated by gambling lords it sought to put out of business.

PCSO Chair Jose Ferdinand Rojas, under questioning by Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, said that at least three STL operators were among those named in the privilege speech of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago on jueteng lords.

They are Gene Reyes of Barangay Bahayang Pag-asa; Edmund Bulusbog Bynon, Eddie Gonzales Devanera Corp. in Quezon and Elmer Mapa Sucuano of Ayam Gaming and Amusement Corp. in Agusan del Norte. Nepomuceno was also tagged as a jueteng lord in Bicol which prompted Enrile to say that he was "spreading his wings."

Rojas was initially reluctant to admit that jueteng lords had used the STL as a front to continue their illegal numbers racket, which Santiago claimed was a P60-billion industry.

He admitted when Enrile pressed on. "Come on. We know it and if you don't know it, you are fooling us. It's well known over the place that jueteng operators were the ones who got most of the licenses in the STL in their localities as a front to cover them and legalize their operations," Enrile said.

Asked by Enrile what went wrong, Rojas said: "No. 1, there was no strict [screening] of applicants to operate STL."

When queried by Sen. Teofisto Guingona III, chair of the blue ribbon committee, if the PCSO could wipe out jueteng, Rojas said: "There are a number of things which we are planning to implement and improve and make STL work. We believe as a national agency the PCSO can do it."

Operators under review

Rojas said "all process operators are under review and we are preparing the list of new guidelines to determine which operators will be canceled by the new management of PCSO."

One basis for cancelling the license is the lowest than-promised remittances to the PCSO over the past years amid reports that STL operators worship as front for jueteng are only paying the government 35 percent of their actual take.

In an interview with reporters after the hearing, Rojas said the PCSO would come out with an exhaustive report on STL operators in this week after consulting with Interior Undersecretary Rico C. Puno and the PNP.

Enrile pushed for submission of the 5-page report to PCSO Chair Rodriguez Jaime on hour to expand and feed-proof the STL operations.

"We have the right to shutdown or cancel if there is any breach in their contracts. I think we should at least be better than [what] they said on giving higher payoffs," said Rojas.

Tonyboy a no-show but sends letter on Cruz meeting

By Christine N. Reganova

PRESIDENT AQUINO'S second cousin and biggest campaign contributor was a no-show yesterday at the joint Senate committee hearing on "jueteng" operations under the new administration.

But Businessman Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco sent his lawyer Atty. Jesus Sison to appear in his behalf. Sison delivered a letter addressed to Archbishop Oscar Cruz and defended his friend, lawyer Undersecretary Rico E. Puno, amid allegations that he was receiving payola from operators of the illegal numbers racket.

In a letter to the blue ribbon committee, Cojuangco recalled coaching for the innocence of Puno in his brief encounter with the prelate at the office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines in Manila on Sept. 17.

"I told Archbishop Cruz that I (knew) the character of (Undersecretary) Puno and his close friendship with President Aquino, and it was therefore inconceivable that Undersecretary Puno would be taking jueteng money," he said.

"I categorically deny that I asked Archbishop Cruz to 'go easy' on Undersecretary Rico Puno," added the businessman, who said he would still be in the United States by the time the second jueteng hearing was held.

The blue ribbon committee received the letter on Monday.

Without basis

Cojuangco asked senators to excuse him from subsequent meetings, insisting that Cruz's list of alleged jueteng operators and protectors was "useless and without substantial basis."

ARCHBISHOP OSCAR CRUZ: Just between us

TONYBOY COJUANGCO: Puno is innocent

He said he received at the conclusion after seeing the list himself, four days before Cruz submitted the document to the Senate at the initial hearing on the illegal numbers rackets on Sept. 21.

"I asked Archbishop Cruz whether the list was substantiated and with basis," he said. "The archbishop answered 'yes' and thus he was merely relying on the network of informants."

Cojuangco added: "I then knew and concluded that I could not and would not submit the list to President Aquino as all reports to him should be validated and have solid basis and evidence."

The businessman claimed he was "surprised" when Cruz mentioned the meeting during the Sept. 23 hearing.

He said the prelate had "made me aware that the list was only between himself, myself, and the President and that God was my witness to this agreement."

In the hearing, the 71-year-old prelate disclosed the meeting only when questioned by Sen. Ferdinand Estrada, who apparently had prior knowledge of it. The senator sought Cruz's confirmation about the details of the meeting.

All in 'jueteng' list invited

Sen. Teofisto Guingona III, blue ribbon committee chair, said the alleged jueteng operators and protectors identified in Cruz's list and in a subsequent privilege speech by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago were welcome to attend the hearings.

Congress said these people would show up or send a letter or affidavit. "The choice is theirs. The door is open. They will appear is theirs," he said in the hearing.

Baguio City Mayor Mauricio Domogan, who was on Cruz's list, expressed his sadness that his name was dragged and he has outlined his administration's effort in curb jueteng in his locality," according to the senator.

"Those named in the list are officially invited to attend any hearing of jueteng so they can give their side," Guingona said.

Robredo tipped off: Puno, Verzosa receiving millions from 'jueteng'

From page A1

it's important that we improve enforcement so law on jueteng [was] concerned," Robredo added.

Puno and Verzosa have denied receiving money from operators of the illegal numbers racket.

Prior information

In an interview with the reporters after the hearing, the local government secretary admitted that he had received prior information about Puno and Verzosa's alleged involvement in the numbers racket.

But he said his interest then was more on stopping jueteng than determining whether the allegations were true or not.

"That letter was meant for us to take action so that the operations would go away," he said.

Upon receiving the letter, Puno requested a meeting wherein he denied the allegations and "agreed that we need to toughen enforcement," Robredo said.

Verzosa on watch list

Both Puno and Verzosa did not show up at yesterday's hearing, which covered proposals to stamp out jueteng by improving the Small Town Lottery (STL) and sought greater participation from the local lottery franchising Council (MSLC) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Sen. Teofisto Guingona III, blue ribbon committee chair, said the committee had issued a letter asking the bureau of immigration to place Verzosa on watch list.

PNP DIRECTOR: Senator Rodolfo Biazon (left) chats with Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo during the Senate inquiry into illegal gambling on Thursday.

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS: Senators Gringo Honasan (left), Bongbong Marcos and Teofisto Guingona III listen during the Senate blue ribbon committee hearing on "jueteng."

to watch list.

A key problem raised at the hearing was the MSLC's apparent inability to go after jueteng lords under the present authority granted to it by law.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile wondered why the MSLC could not freeze or recover jueteng money, saying that jueteng operators naturally would deposit the proceeds in banks. "It can't be that they are keeping all their money in vaults," he said.

AMLC helpless

Richard Fuok, AMLC officer in charge, said: "Right now, if we want to look into a jueteng lord's account, we need to intervene their illegal activities such as [which] Santiago claimed was a P60-billion industry.

Tax compliance records

Deputy BIR Commissioner Estela Jasmin said the agency had begun "checking the tax compliance records" of alleged jueteng operators and protectors named on the list of retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz and in the privilege speech by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

"We would run the net worth ... and expenditure method," Jasmin told senators. "We have started with this and we shall continue, except that we're encountering road blocks since the names given were aliases or pseudonyms.

At times, there would be intelligence with the case money."

Asked whether his office has begun a probe of those on the Cruz list, Robredo said: "I've instructed the Napolcom [National Police Commission] to help us. Probably like most of us, we have a blank mind. And when the reports that have been there...aside from the news clippings that we have received, it's essentially what they say."

He said there was no evidence, on hand basis to prove the allegations.

Six-point proposal

Robredo said the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) had come up with a six-point proposal on jueteng, including more modern law. He said the final draft would be submitted for President Aquino's approval soon.

One suggestion was to use the conditional cash transfer program with the anti-poverty measure.

Asked whether his office has begun a probe of those on the Cruz list, Robredo said: "I've instructed the Napolcom [National Police Commission] to help us. Probably like most of us, we have a blank mind. And when the reports that have been there...aside from the news clippings that we have received, it's essentially what they say."

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Vice President's small budget: Binay on a short fuse

From page A1

To add insult to injury, Binay said that his allocation for next year was more than what the predecessor, Noli de Castro, got last year.

But the diminutive VP took some comfort in the assurance by Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and the finance committee chair, Sen. Franklin Drilon, that his budget should, at least, be unchanged from last year's level or slightly over P177-million.

"I can assure you that when the [Office of the President's proposed budget, it was not to accommodate tonight," Drilon said, making light of Binay's plight.

"I'll do better probably after six years," Binay replied, referring to a possible presidential run in 2016.

Enrile said that he already knew from what agency to get the additional budget for Binay's office so that the country's No. 2 official would, at least, maintain its allocation from last year.

"I think his budget should be restored at the very least," said Enrile, who took less than five minutes to consider the VP's budget as having been submitted.

Injustice

Binay said he requested budget Secretary Florencio Abad Jr. for at least a 9-percent increase in his budget to cover for the proposed increase in salaries and allowances of his employees.

"You can see (the situation) here. The National Telecommunications Commission got (P1 billion. I am in a constitutional office performing a constitutional function," Binay said.

He said he needed funds to distribute especially to people who come to him for medical help and

VICE PRESIDENT Jejomar Binay Tuesday amid budget

other support. "Senators are better off because they have their Priority Development Assistance Fund," he said.

Binay told reporters that he would have wanted to build a permanent office.

"I am No. 2 in the hierarchy but I have no official residence, nor is just renting," said Binay who was standing a rental eyesore using the Coconut Palace at the GSP complex in Manila as his official headquarters.

More cuts due

The proposed budget of the Office of the Vice President is just 4.25 percent of the P4.075 billion budget being sought by the Office of the President for 2011.

At the hearing, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa pointed out that this was 4.3 percent, or P183.8 million, lower than the 2010 budget after the Palace abolished 16 redundant offices and cut professional services and printing, advertising, travel and representation allowances.

Ochoa said that more cuts were due as the administration continued to review agencies with redundant functions.

He said the President's intelligence fund had likewise been cut from P600 million to P400 million as part of efforts to ensure transparency.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-CARAGA
Butuan City

INVITATION TO BID/
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Department of Health - Caraga, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	PROCUREMENT OF HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT OF TALACOGON DISTRICT HOSPITAL AND BAYUGAN DISTRICT HOSPITAL
Location	CHD-Center for Health Development - Caraga
Brief Description	
Approved Budget For the Contract	Php 3,961,000.00
Contract Duration	
Delivery Period	120 Calendar Days

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility checks is described in Section 5, Instruction & Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

	Activities	Schedules
1	Issuance of Bid Documents	October 6, 2010
2	Pre-bid Conference	October 6, 2010
3	Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility (if single-stage bidding is used, delete this activity)	
4	Opening of Bids	October 19, 2010 (9:00 Morning)
5	Bid Evaluation	October 21, 2010
6	Post-qualification	November 4, 2010
7	Notice of Award	November 7, 2010

Per single-stage bidding:

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos Only (Php 3,000.00) to the Department of Health – Center for Health Development – Caraga Cashier Section.

The Department of Health – Center for Health Development – Caraga reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the government. It also reserves the right to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for such action.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) FLORINDA B. TEJANO, SPA, Ph.D.
BAC Chairperson

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
(Extension Bldg. V, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos.: (049) 545-0382

October 1, 2010

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEP'S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
1.	ITT WATER TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL, INC. LOT 1, Calamba City	Mr. Edward (Bernard Corley) American	Sales Manager – Southeast Asia
2.	YUMEX PHILIPPINES CORPORATION PCW, Brgy. Lamesan, Diamond Rd., Canlubang, Calamba	Mr. Akira Asai Japanese	General Manager
3.	HYGIENIC PHILIPPINES, INC. LOT 1, Brgy. Turbo, Calamba City	Mr. Jaemann Lee Korean	Quality Control Quality Assurance Manager
4.	NAZARETH INSTITUTE OF ALFONSO HAYES Brgy. Pagsanjan, Canlubang, Calamba	Mr. Chengjin Wang (China)	Consultant
5.	AUTOMATION, INC. LOT 1-A La Mesa, Calamba	Mr. Seong Jin Kim Korean	Technical Consultant
6.	JUNTEC CORPORATION LOT 1-E-2, Brgy. Mamplasan, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Manabu Watanabe Japanese	Managing Director
7.	CORP. Lot1 Mamplasan, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Umar Lani Australian	Technical Director
8.	NISHIN INDUSTRIES CORPORATION Cabuyao cor. Silver Pulilan, Diamond Rd., Canlubang, Calamba	Mr. Wu Chi Kuen Chiquel Chinese	General Manager
9.	SHIMIZU PHILIPPINES MANUFACTURING, INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Shimizu Hirokazu Japanese	GA Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, JR., CESO III
Regional Director

Binay lawyer likens Mar election plea to 'corpse'

By Nikko Dizon

UNDISPUTABLE FACTS President Aquino shakes the hand of Vice President Jejomar Binay prior to leaving for his recent official trip to the United States.

MANILA, "Going surgery on a cadaver and reconstructing a corpse."

This was how a lawyer of Vice President Jejomar Binay described a motion filed defeated vice-presidential candidate and former senator Manuel "Mar" Roxas II, for the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) to conduct a forensic analysis of the Automated Election System as the PET began hearings on Binay's election protest yesterday.

"It is effectively leaving the PET to do surgery on a cadaver and reconstructing a corpse... The petitioner for this surgery is...similar to disembowelling [the body] and reattaching the organs to suit their purpose," said Felicitas Arroyo, Binay's lead counsel.

Roxas, the running mate of President Aquino, did not attend the hearing.

Binay arrived a few minutes late, driving up admonition from the hearing commissioner, Bernardo Pardo, the former Supreme Court justice and former Commission on Elections chair.

Roxas, who lost to Binay by a mere 700,000 votes, is seeking a full accounting of nearly three million null votes and votes that were non-counted during the national canvassing.

"It is undisputed that the Automated Election System had reading, memory and transmitting problems. That's why there is a need for a forensic analysis for more than that there was a problem [during the election] that led to [Roxas'] votes not being counted," Joey Salvadores, Binay' lawyer, told the hearing.

The lawyer said Roxas ultimately had the higher votes and should be proclaimed Vice President.

A forensic analysis of the country's first automated election system would involve the analysis of the vanished flash cards and source code used in the electronic voting, among others, before the PET can order the retrieval of the ballot boxes for a recount.

The Binay camp wants the forensic analysis done before any ballot box is brought in by a vote manual "to expedite the proceedings."

It also proposed conducting a random manual audit with a greater sample size which should be done by an "independent group."

Arroyo clarified Binay' proposals as "nothing more than a fishing expedition" for evidence for the defeated vice presidential candidate.

She argued that it was not within the PET's jurisdiction to conduct the forensic analysis of the system and the random manual testing.

For the record that the Automated Election Law, Republic Act No. 9369, provides that it is the Comelec that should be the one to conduct the random manual audit of votes.

Upon questioning by Pardo, Tenebroso said his client would still pursue the election protest even if the PET denies his motion for a forensic analysis of the automated election system and the random manual audit.

Quezon town mayor, 5 aides nabbed for gun ban violation

LUCENA CITY—Police arrested the mayor of Guinayangan, Quezon and four others in connection of the election gun ban after authorities discovered high-powered firearms inside the suspects' vehicles Wednesday, Oct. police said in a report Thursday.

Senior Insp. Jessie Rasay, Quezon police media relations officer, identified the suspects as Guinayangan Mayor Angel Arellano Jr., municipal employees Ildefonso C. Rodriguez, Jessie O. Castrodes Jr. and Jessie A. Rempillo Tiernan I. Amano, Arcadio's bodyguard and a Rafael C. Pesores Jr.

The report said the suspects were arrested by police from the Quezon Provincial Police Office's Intelligence Branch and the Quezon Provincial Public Safety Company in Barangay Sumulong in Guinayangan.

The mayor and his party were aboard a Nissan Urvan van bearing government license plate SFD-898.

Rasay said suspicious looking persons aboard the vehicle had alarmed authorities who immediately took a close look at the inside of the van and decided to conduct a search.

The search yielded one Elisco Reloj Arms rifle with serial number RP2549994, nine magazines loaded with 154 live ammunition, one Federal M16 machine pistol (cal. 9MM) with serial number P04862, four magazines with 60 bullets, one .45 cal. Norinco pistol with two magazines and 14 bullets, and one .45 cal. Charles Daly pistol with one magazine and 8 bullets.

Senior Supt. Edwin Velasquez, Quezon police director, said all confiscated guns have licenses, except for the baby Armalite.

The suspects will be charged with violation of Commission on Elections Resolution No. 9018 stipulating ban on carrying of firearms during election periods.

The poll body has imposed a nationwide gun ban effective Sept. 28 until Nov. 14 for the coming barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on Oct. 25.

All permits to carry firearms outside residences given to civilians have been revoked for the duration of the election period. —Buffy T. Maluleo Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Pagasa predicts more rains though no new storm

By Kristine L. Rivera

THE LOW pressure area spotted near Samar has weakened, but rains will still fall on parts of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, the weather bureau said yesterday.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) in a 4:00 p.m. bulletin said the shallow low pressure area that brought cloudy skies and rain to Southern Luzon and Visayas has moved south of Samar.

Both of the Philippines, particularly Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, will experience to be under heavy cloudy and occasional rain, Pagasa said.

Residents in Eastern Visayas and Mindanao are advised to take precautionary measures against floods and landslides.

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

'Demolition job'

THERE OUGHT to be a law against politicians and public officials moving out the term "demolition job" every time accusations of wrongdoing are raised against them.

The latest to employ this hackneyed, now meaningless, phrase is Interior Undersecretary Rico E. Puno, in response to the charge by retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz that he received P5 million in jueteng money every month. "It is evident that the people who will be affected by our efforts to fight the illegal numbers game have launched a demolition job against me," Puno said in a prepared statement at the Senate.

Puno assumes that trotting the term sufficiently explains why he now finds himself in the hot seat. It does not. Whining about a "demolition job" doesn't begin to explain, clarify or invalidate the questions raised by the allegations. It merely suggests that, instead of presenting facts and explaining to the public, Puno would rather sidestep the charges and obscure the issue by painting himself as a victim and impugning the motives of his accusers.

Puno assumes that trotting the term sufficiently explains why he now finds himself in the hot seat. It does not. Whining about a "demolition job" doesn't begin to explain, clarify or invalidate the questions raised by the allegations. It merely suggests that, instead of presenting facts and explaining to the public, Puno would rather sidestep the charges and obscure the issue by painting himself as a victim and impugning the motives of his accusers.

If he were the first to do this, the tactic might still prove persuasive. But Puno is but the latest in a recklessly long line of public officials whose first instinct when faced with questions of accountability is to cry "demolition job." Following this feckless script, another name on Cruz's list of jueteng beneficiaries, retired Philippine National Police Director General Jesse Morcoso, also had his lawyer protest his innocence by—what else?—smashing the exact same phrase.)

To his credit, Puno followed up his moldy phraseology with a gesture of a more refreshing kind. He would tender his courtesy resignation to his good friend and boss, President Aquino, as soon as the latter came back from his US trip, he said. Refreshingly, because others resign from government service, so common among public officials mired in controversy in other countries, have become rare of the rarest things Samaritans.

Still, Puno could have done one better by offering to resign irrevocably. That way, he'd spare his boss the burden of having to make a very public decision on his fate. As it is, a rather sneaky quality informs Puno's offer of a "courtesy" resignation. From all accounts, he is one of the closest confidantes of the President, a man who prizes loyalty in the people around him above many other virtues. By hedging his bets and leaving the question of his employment to his good friend, Puno appears, in fact, to be counting on the President not to let him go.

The President himself has been forced to defend Puno personally before the media, summoning up another much-abused term—"due process"—to insist that his friend be given the opportunity to exonerate himself. "You can't have them hanged just because someone asked that you do so," Mr. Aquino said.

In Puno's case, however, the first "someone" to ask was an appointee of the President himself: Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, whose fact-finding panel on the Quirino Grandstand hostage tragedy chastised Puno for dereliction of duty as overall in charge of the Philippine National Police, which bungled the rescue operations. That Mr. Aquino has not pedaled his earlier nonchalance for heads to roll in the aftermath of the tragedy is disappointing. But his partiality toward allies and friends is not just frustrating but alarming.

The "jueteng king" allegation is the second major embarrassment for Puno. While the charge remains unproven, it has become a serious distraction not only to Puno's effective discharge of his duties, but, more ominously to Mr. Aquino's own promise of a more honest, transparent form of governance. He won the presidency on a ringing call to stamp out corruption in government. Retaining a confidant in one of the most sensitive and graft-prone government offices, while the man labors under a cloud of suspicion, could only lessen the President's credibility.

It is not too much for Mr. Aquino to consider reassigning Puno to a more discreet position in his Cabinet? "Due process," while ideal, is not the sine qua non of public service. Effective governance rests, in large part, on perception and symbolism—the Caesar's wife principle, remember?

Puno may be innocent of all the charges, but sticking by him on an issue that cuts to the heart of the Aquino presidency's political capital is very counterproductive. Let Puno prove his innocence, but not in the sense office—and without the same powers—that has given many people reason to think otherwise.

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Illegal logging rampant in Angat watershed

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THIRTY-TWO BARANGAYS in Valenzuela, Caloocan, Malabon and Quezon City were warned for two days allegedly because the Napocor hydroelectric power plant in Angat Dam was shut down for repairs, according to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

I don't buy this. The MWSS may be lying again. Water from Angat dam does not flow directly to the faucets of particular barangays. As I understand it, raw water from Angat flows in huge pipes to La Mesa dam where it is stored and from there to the filtration plants where the water is cleaned. It is only then that the treated water flows through the pipes leading to the homes of Manila Water consumers. Pipes so far stranded consumers flows from Angat to the dam where it is stored. Therefore, even if Angat is shut down, there should still be water stored in La Mesa and ready to be treated and piped to water subscribers. That's what La Mesa and Ipo are reservoirs or storage areas for raw water.

So why were some barangays denied water? To conserve water. As I reported in an earlier column, the water level in Angat is way below normal even if it is the rainy and stormy season. At that level and at the current rate of consumption, the reservoir would be dry in the next few months. Meaning, there literally would have a very hot and thirsty summer.

The MWSS knows that admonitions telling people to conserve water to make the supply last longer will not be heeded. Besides, the MWSS would be pilloried for failing in its job while enjoying extravagant bonuses and allowances. So rather than ask the people to save water voluntarily, they are being told that there are no water by cutting the supply to them. And the upper of the larger power plant to a convenient excuse. A two-day supply of water for 32 barangays is a lot of water saved.

I predict that water would be cut off from more barangays in the future so there are more water to save more water—and the users of MWSS officials. (Nope, I am wrong for lacking further explanations, that is what logic leads us to conclude.

But why is the water level in the Angat reservoir way below normal in spite of the rains? Because the rains are not plentiful enough. And because of illegal logging in the Angat watershed.

The watershed is supposed to be guarded by the National Power Corp. But as early everything else that is its responsibility, the Napocor is failing in its responsibility to save the Angat forests.

Rampant illegal logging is going on inside the Angat watershed. From outside, the watershed looks like it is thickly forested. But go inside and you will see vast swathes of forest cleared, the stumps of cut trees looking like crosses for the dead trees. The forest is like an abandoned house ravaged by termites.

The logs are stripped of their branches and then hauled by carabao (hence the name "carabao logging") to where they are cut into lumber. Other logs are rolled down the mountainsides to the rivers and the reservoir itself and floated to the lumber mills. Others are left where they were felled until heavy rains wash them down to the rivers and reservoir.

According to my informants, there are plenty of logs on the Angat mountainsides waiting for the rains and floods to wash them down to the waterways before Hanoi to the power plant's reservoir, then logs pose a threat to the plant and to the dam itself.

Remember when Angat Dam was shut down because the logs carried downstream clogged the turbines of the dam? It could happen again if those entitled to be de-clogged.

Remember the Angat Dam tragedy during Typhoon "Ruding" on Oct. 26, 19[illegible] 200 people and destroyed hundreds of millions of pesos worth of property of the people of Bulacan. In 1993, Angat Dam was forced to release water that flooded Bulacan and paralyzed all transportation from the north to Metro Manila.

Last year, Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng" submerged most of Metro Manila and Bulacan, particularly Bulacan, Pulilan, Sta. Rosa, Bocaue, Marilao, Meycauayan and Bustos.

Worse, big logs carried by the rampaging waters and subsequently crashing into the dam itself can weaken it and cause its collapse. Can you imagine what would happen downstream—the lives lost and public and private property destroyed—in case the dam collapsed?

The Japanese MWSS, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the provincial and municipal governments of Bulacan know that illegal logging is going on inside the Angat watershed but nobody is doing anything to stop it. Ironically, the illegal loggers are Bulacanos themselves. The people who would be wiped out by floods from Angat would be their fellow Bulakenyos.

But do we know that the Angat reservoir holds even less water than we realize? The water level is already down but the reservoir's holding capacity is even less than expected because of the silt that has been washed down the channel, and some farmers have constructed fishponds within the reservoir. This silt makes the reservoir shallower, diminishing its capacity to hold water.

The Angat watershed is only 63,000 hectares. The normal water level in the reservoir is 217 meters. The stored water irrigates farms in 26 municipalities—81 in Bulacan and 10 in Pulacan—and supplies Metro Manila with drinking water. Now, the water level is down to 193 meters, and the rainy season is already over—the driest in 20 years according.

Doesn't the MWSS realize that it is now imperative to tap Wawa Dam for more water?

The public regulation of poisoned lungs (1)

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

ON THE issue of tobacco consumption, I do not pretend to scholarly distance or neutrality. I am an outright partisan. I grew up with asthma. Although I haven't had a bad attack in a long while, I savor the joy of inhaling a lungful of pure, clean air. Which it comes to the issue of poisoned lungs, I have passion for a very good reason.

But in order to attack the pastimes of tobacco advocates, first we must fully appreciate their strengths. Borrowing from Sen Tito, I use the enemy and respect his stance.

Filipinos might find this strange, but tobacco advocacy draws its strength from the core of liberalism's respect for the individual. In the words of Thomas Jefferson, "Men [and women—I must add] are created equal [and] are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." Accordingly, you are free to live your life as happily or as miserably as suits you as long as you do not injure others.

That is why when Massachusetts first adopted a mandatory seat belt law, it was struck down as unconstitutional. Each time a driver is risk his own life, and the state can restrict the private (though "public" power"), only when such activities impinge on the public interest. There is no public interest in protecting you from your own stupidity. You get your kicks from bungee jumping? How about skin boarding? Yeah, risk bashing your head or running your spine—but for that adrenalin rush, it's worth it. In my case, I love roller coasters, but each time the coaster inches up toward the topmost rail, I ask myself why on earth I do these silly things—and then the coaster plunges down the abyss, my brain stops working, and how I realize that's exactly why! Once in awhile, I need to stop pondering the mysteries of life...even at the risk of vomiting it down.

For the mandatory seat belt law, the public interest appears only at rare moments. The first is if, in endangering yourself, you also endanger others. The "human projectile" argument, philosopher medleigh says. The state can't save you from crashing your skull, but the moment you own as much as splatter your blood on someone's white T-shirt, then, you have crossed the line. As regards smoking, the public interest is limited to the regulation of second-hand smoke. Passive smoking is even more lethal. The smoker is not free to poison the lungs of his roommates without their consent. That is within the scope of public regulation. Hence, the ban on smoking in public places.

The second "public" moment is a bit more difficult to apply in our country in wealthier states, medical care is a public charge, either through socialized health, or through private insurance programs, both of which accumulate the cost of getting sick and so that it is spread across the board. In the Philippines, we don't have an insurance fund. In this context, no smoker can say that it's none of our business. It is everybody's business because later in life, when he develops heart ailments, lung cancer, emphysema, etc., everybody will subsidize that cost.

In the Philippines, we don't have a complete system of public health care, and the typical trip to the hospital entails a lot of out-of-pocket spending. That doesn't trump the public choice to all smoking. However, if merely indirect restrictions—because the true cost is absorbed by family or friends. In other words, the cost is spread just the same to others, who pay the price not necessarily by footing our cash. That price is paid either by children who forgo school, a spouse who takes a second job, or an elderly parent who goes naturally deprived for pension.

That is why the burden debate today is to factor regulation factors on graphic or pictorial warnings on cigarette boxes, rather than the merely textual admonition. "Cigarette smoking may be dangerous to your health." That document is addressed to the low theater of the smoker. It already smoker that the state is actually hostage to the smoker's choices, and that is why the state addresses its plea to him as choices maker, not as it right be the state to insist on graphic warnings?

The best argument against this is that Filipinos typically don't buy cigarettes in boxes. They buy it single, by the stick, and tobacco sellers display their wares in large kaing-kaing the sticks in smaller packets made of transparent cellophane.

The best argument in favor of graphic warnings is cultural. Pinoys need great photos showing gangrenous gums or cancer-ridden jaws. It's like those street signs. We can ignore them as "Slow Down, Thank You," "Drive Speed 60 kph" or even the unfortunately spaced to tell interest "accident prone area." We listen more to visual plans. "The life you save may be your own," or "Innocent children craving." Of course the most graphic of all is not even merely pictorial. Inside cigarette packages, on adjacent platforms, they serve. Other display an actual mangled car, crushed windshield and all. They shamelessly used to lie about the devil's handiwork.

But danger alone does not justify state regulation. If the risk of death or disease justifies government regulation, then maybe the law should ban us bacchanalian breakfast, crispy pata, and all-you-can (man, I salivate just writing this). Anti-tobacco activists are tobacco is the only legal consumer product that is lethal when used exactly as the manufacturer intends. So why are all those high-octane cholesterol delights legal? What's the difference?

(More next week.)

Comments to pasanghr@yahoo@gmail.com

Aquino's bold gamble

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

a SLOGAN SWEEPS across the Philippine stage and the Catholic Church over both national (based up) after President Aquino said in San Francisco last Monday that the government would give assistance to Filipino couples needing contraceptives to curb the number of their children.

In his talk to the Filipino community in the US during his first overseas travel, President Aquino drew his fans the Catholic hierarchy, when he said: "I think the government is obligated to inform everybody of their responsibilities. At the end of the day, government ought provide assistance to those who are without means if they want to employ a particular method. But after saying that, I will not embark on a situation that forces couples to go one way or another."

This statement was like wearing a red cape to a bull, and minions of the Catholic Church immediately took this as a declaration of war on the birth control issue.

The statement was made in reference to the key provisions of the Reproductive Health Bill pending in Congress. The bill calls for public assistance to the poor in family planning methods, and is strongly opposed by the Church hierarchy. The Church opposes artificial methods of family planning, such as the use of contraceptives and condoms. It favors the natural method, such as abstinence and rhythm.

The President's statement provoked an instant reaction from Fr. Melvin Castro, executive director of the Episcopal Commission on Family and Life. Mr. Aquino's stand came as a disappointment to and was particularly galling to the Church's clergy because the majority of them are the so-called "pro-life" position of his mother, the priest-lion President Corazon Aquino.

Castro linked the President's position to the US grant of a $426 million financial assistance to the Philippines during his US visit.

In a statement that appeared to antagonize public opinion and further alienate even middle-class opinion from the Church's stand on family planning, Castro, speaking without evidence, accused the administration of selling out to the dictates of the pro-abortion US. He declared, "It's just a small amount compared to the moral values we are going to lose," Castro said. "Appreciable for that measly sum of money in the name of fighting poverty, how we are again, selling out the Filipino moral in a sense."

Castro was speaking from the level of the soil, which the poor who have many months to feed, children to clothe and send to school, cannot identify with. His arguments has no resonance with the poor and does not reflect the reality on the ground and their consequences to the poor of unwanted families.

The widening rift between the Philippine State and Church over birth control has put them on a collision course as Congress clears under behind the President to push through legislation over the Reproductive Health Bill. Leaders of Church-appointed lay organizations have threatened to block the passage of the bill with street protests, their own version of People Power, but such threats by the Church support groups do not intimidate congressional leaders who are affronted by these threats.

Church groups acting as People Power may be exaggerating their clout and influence to kill the birth control legislation. The Church is actually facing a hardening position of the government, in both executive and legislative departments, as have an activist role in making available to the public, especially the poor, the means of curbing the galloping birth rate.

Taking a cue from the President's statements, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte served notice that he is prepared to face the wrath of the Catholic Church by making sure that the bill on reproductive health is discussed extensively and voted on by members of Congress.

The members of Congress swear being insulated from by Church organizations on the issue. Opponents of the bill have threatened to campaign against congressmen who favored the bill.

In the face of such threats, believers to defeat the bill he would like to see the bill reach third reading and voted on by members, unlike past Congresses which were so intimidated by resolutions of the Church during election campaigns that the bill didn't go beyond the stage of plenary debates.

Belmonte sees a change in congressional sentiment, believing that support for the bill is more than holding in Congress, and the President had enjoyed his views on providing access to the poor so that they would have wider options to limit the number of their children. With this perceived sentiment, Belmonte is emboldened to push for the bill and has ordered the President to ratify it so as to expedite its passage.

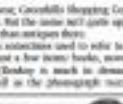
"I think it's okay for us to request him to ratify that," Belmonte said. "At any rate he's already let me the bullet in it."

When Mr. Aquino made his statements in San Francisco, he took a bold gamble, knowing he would antagonize the Catholic Church. Having made that gamble, the President now enjoys considerable influence over congressmen to support his controversial position on reproductive health legislation. He has indeed handed a challenge for the test of strength to the Church. By taking up the President, the Church similarly faces the risk of its chosen being shown up as hollow noise.

Collectibles

AROUND THIS time early year, Greenhills Shopping Center has a national antiques fair. But the name isn't quite appropriate because there's more than antiques there.

The term "collectibles" is sometimes used to refer to the stuff that's sold. To name just a few items: books, magazines, comics (Donkey is much in demand), photograph players as well as the photograph records, memorabilia of movie stars, their dolls (the ones with the dolls which you put into the machine to get a 10 effect), stamps, coins, old household utensils, old cars and Magnolia ice cream tins, toys. I've even found old medical equipment at this fair.



PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I go there as a social scientist. I look for old textbooks, for example, to see what was being taught to our schools during the American period.

The historical materials being sold are also interesting. Some of these are old maps, old postcards and books like Marcelo Hernandez's book, as well as various memorabilia in general. One seller had quite a collection of propaganda materials from the puppet government during the Japanese occupation. Among the old photographs, I noticed a lot more of the convivial quezons and kings, the carnivals being annual events sponsored by the American colonial government in major cities, with contests, parades coming from cities and towns.

There were also many interesting items now in the realm of indigenous communities. One stall had a particularly good selection of old textiles and baskets and looking at them makes you realize that many of these crafts are no longer produced, or if they are, the quality leaves much to be desired. You'll be amazed that the size of some of the old cloth go up to six dayos. The baskets go up to five thousand pesos. I told the seller that I had some baskets like these from the Treasury of Mindanao, going back to the 1970s, which conservation workers "liquidated" to carry stones and gravel when they were renovating my house! They were totally ruined.

"Tan-ik"

Browsing through, you realize anything can be historical. There are old car, motorcycle, even bicycle license plates. There are old tags, registration papers, cedulas. I've always tempted to buy one of the tax ik, which means "big mouth" in Mistaan Chinese, referring to the entry documents issued to Chinese migrants. The certificates always has a photograph of the migrant, often looking quite sad, almost haunting, and I see "haunting" in a literal sense because many of the cases of tax ik that I've seen have been of migrants who died in the Philippines. This is why many older Chinese will have two names: their real one, as well as a tax ik version, which was the "illegally legal" one.

Back to the collectible aspect, these tax ik can be quite expensive, going from P3,000 upwards, much of the value coming not from the certificate itself but from the documentary value of the photograph. Government stamps are also collectibles, much like postage stamps and coins.

There are a few dealers who have stamps and coins, and old paper money, including the Mickey Mouse money from the Japanese occupation. I grew up using collecting many years ago but occasionally pick up a few stamps, or coins, or paper money again for the historical value. They can be useful to explain the past to my children and grandchildren.

Nostalgia

"Collectible" is a relative term. As the saying goes, one man's junk may be another's treasure. What you see the stuff being sold at this antiques fair (for sure some of you will be destroyed, realizing that all the stuff you used the other week to the neighbors are actually "antiques" or "collectibles."

Nostalgia may be driving you to look for just to the stuff. Former Cebu governor Lito Osmeña, who was born early 1970s are now in middle, and may actually be the ones buying some of the memorabilia from the 80s or so.

While I was looking at reproductions of old photographs, a man asked me to look out for anything related to Cebu. I didn't ask, but I suspect he probably worked with Cesar Cebu. I pulled out pictures of the Cebu plaza, and one Chamorro exhibits, from the 1960s, as well as photos of Cebu enhancements of their time. I did take time to look closely at the photographs because when I was growing up, I used to hear older ethnic Chinese relatives expressing a stereotype: Sinmin . . . those Spanish mestizos, they're either very rich, or they're Cebu enhancers! (And I'm sure the Spanish mestizos had their stereotypes as well of the ethnic Chinese as sari-sari store owners, but that's another topic, I'm sure.)

There are many old numbers and silver Dayos they hold: and, often with initials etched on them. Looking at these items always make me wonder, who gave this to whom, and what memories did they carry for the people who carried them? With the Dayos, I wonder about the lucre, and the events they symbolized, such with their own stamps too, like Arroyo's big Dayo in 2004 which was issued with middle aged women, often unmarried, who took care of all the keys, and the secrets, of the household.

I use these Dayos myself because they are quite well made. They're also good investments, if that's what you're looking for. They've made from good silver, and only a few years ago were going at P1,000 each. Now they go for P3,000 upwards.

From that I have kids I've had to go slow before buying something. The temptations are harder to resist with the hardened furniture, built to last just about forever. My favorites are lawyer's bureaus, book cabinets with each shelf having its own glass window. These are very functional, protecting the books from dust. Also functional and "with-similar" designs are the photos, for storing (and displaying) dressing plates. The most valuable of these cabinets have art deco designs.

You never know what's going to end up a collectible. They have started selling those ferner cars that Shell stations were selling for P87 to P100 each with gasoline purchases. Earlier models now go for P300.

There are dealers now offering cellphone cards. PLDT had some very well designed ones, and those are now to go up in price. I can't say that about the Smart cellphone cards.

The collectibles fair ends this weekend, so hurry over, even if just to window shop. If you go tomorrow, Saturday, there's the blessing of pets to commemorate the feast of St. Francis. That's at 9 a.m. (I have to warn you though: it's not very practical carrying your dog around while shopping for antiques. I'm also not sure if Greenhills allows pets into the fair itself.)

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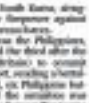
Email: mtan@inquirer.com.ph

Remembering a 'forgotten war'



AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SEOUL—"FREEDOM and Peace" is the theme of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of this city's "re-capture." On June 28, 1950, after Eastern and United Nations allied forces drove communist forces back behind the 38th parallel, Seoul was "liberated," the city having been occupied by the tanks by two Korean members of the Japanese gov. the national flag of the Republic of Korea.

At that time, the flag was raised on the flagpole in front of the national government building, a monument to the "forgotten war" that left the divided Korea and whose defeat in 1945 signaled the birth of the republic as well as the country's awakening.

The resurgence of that moment last Tuesday had only a modest display of old vehicles, and of the Japanese colonial building as a backdrop; it was held in front of a monument of the Hangeyore, the gate to the Gyeongbok gang, the compound of the former Palace that was and still is the heart of Seoul.

The monument, then, spoke of many things; one of them that Korea is well on its way to erasing the remaining vestiges of Japanese colonial rule, with the demolition of the building completed in the 1990s as part of the effort to restore Gyeongbok Palace to its original appearance.

It also spoke not just of that moment of liberation, but also of the 60 years between then and now, and of how the Korea that came to be in the ruins of war and destruction is the prosperous and progressive country it is now.

Still, it was a poignant sight, as new Korean veterans rode in front of the flag, and as the national anthem was sung by the two, led in raising the flag once, being up to lift an iconic photograph and recalling for today's generation what has been called "the forgotten war."

• • •

AT 4 daughter of a Korean War veteran, I felt tears threatening to spill out, as I thought how proud my Papa would have been to witness such an event in a country in which he had spent many cold, dangerous months in defense of democracy.

Seconds after the Korean flag fluttered in the wind, cameramen were lowered to record the flags of the 21 countries that responded to the UN decision to rush to the aid of South Korea, giving glory valiantly with inferior firepower against the incursions of the North Korean forces.

One of those countries was the Philippines, the first country in Asia (and the third after the United States and Great Britain) to commit ground troops to the war effort, sending a battalion-size force in 1950. In all, the Philippine battalions were deployed until the armistice was signed, including an end to the fighting, some 7,000 Filipino troops remained behind as part of the UN forces.

Contemporary reports put the number of PH. troops killed in action in Korea at 112, though some overseas counted that the number should be 116, to include base officers. Sixteen Filipino combatants remain missing in action.

Five million people—heavy soldiers and civilians—were killed in the Korean War as a result of the conflict, although the toll on the side of South Korea and China is still unknown. The US, which sent the largest number of troops to Korea—more than 1.7 million—paid the highest toll among the allies, sacrificing nearly 37,000 lives.

Taking place just five years after the end of World War II, and some two decades before the Vietnam War, the Korean War has been called the "forgotten war," although I think the proper term should be the "overlooked war" since it's not one. At no one, will never forget it.

• • •

PERHAPS the present ROK (the Republic of Korea) forces struggle to win the hearts and minds of their people, the veterans of the Korean War seem to have won the gratitude of all.

Veterans from 15 of the 21 UN allied nations are currently in Korea, hosted by the Korean government not just for the Seoul liberation ceremonies, but also for a series of commemorative activities. Among the highlights in the handing out to each veteran (or family member) of a "Statement of Thanks" and a medal honoring each as an "envoy of peace." Receiving the medal for the Philippines is Second Master Gil Ishmen, the veterans present were also recognized as "Honorary Citizens of Seoul."

Among the veteran groups present, the Philippines is represented by a delegation of 29, including 12 surviving veterans, plus the wives and children of both surviving and deceased veterans who belong to the Association of PEFTOK, the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea.

It was my serendipity that I find myself in their company here in Korea, remembering a war my parents rarely spoke of, being here, and witnessing the commemoration. I believe, in my way of honoring my father.

Time to move from 'not yet' to 'right now'

IT WAS a crime that shocked the world. Fifty-seven people abducted and brutally killed, their bodies dumped in a mass grave on a hillside above the town of Ampatuan in Maguindanao in November 2009.

They had been traveling in a convoy to witness the filing of candidacy papers for a local politician whom they were supporting, a group of about 180 armed men, "The Ampatuans," motivated by a long-standing political feud between members of the group and the ruling political family. Among the victims were 32 journalists. One of them was Joel Parcon.

Five months after the massacre, Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, took part in a protest rally calling on the newly founded Association of South East Asian Nations Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) to assist them in seeking justice in the case and demanding that the Philippine government provide compensation for the victims. Nearly 100 people rallied at the AICHR to pressure member countries to ensure justice for human rights victims.

But still was left unheeded. A spokesperson said the AICHR did not have the power to intervene, just its individual terms. "Not yet," he added apologetically. But not never, he implied.

The AICHR was formally inaugurated a month before the massacre in October 2009. It was the result of a year long effort that followed the ratification of the Asean Charter, which transformed the 10-member group from a loose association to be a legal entity. The charter also called for the establishment of a regional human rights body.

This was a big step forward for Asean, finally taken in 2007, its primary aims were regional economic and social development. Instead, rights were not even mentioned at the time. To a large extent, this concerns five agenda remains dominant today. While emphasis on human rights is concerned it includes some forward looking notions, Asean also counts among its members some of the most oppressive governments in the world.

This week, the HUMN, meeting in Kuala Lumpur, is drafting on the formation and mandate of a sub-Asean-Call the Asean Human Rights Declaration. The significance of this project cannot be understated. This will be the first human rights declaration within Asia, the world's largest and most populated continent. It has the potential to become a real benchmark human rights instruments in Asia.

But for many human rights campaigners, the move evokes mixed feelings. Asean has had a poor record on human rights protection. Many of its members are fiercely protective of their sovereign rights and there has been a troubling tradition of a decision-making process that is opaque, non-inclusive and consensus-based.

Amnesty International is not opposed to shaping a human rights body based on consensus. What it opposes is the traditional Asean-style consensus of diplomats and government officials that has for the last 40 common denominator that would be palatable to some of the world's most human rights violators, such a consensus results in vague, meaningless statements, carefully worded, generally phrased and watered down so as to embrace no one.

The type of consensus-based declaration that would like to see includes the views of people throughout the region, from politicians and political activists, to members of trade unions and women organizations to farmers' bloggers and indigenous peoples...and much more. This type of consensus-building would be a departure from Asean's traditional approach but reflects the standards developed by the international community over several decades.

The reason for this crucial point is simple: farmers women, men and children are in the words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "born free and equal in dignity and rights, endowed with reason and conscience" just like people anywhere else. They are not the world's second-class citizens, and they neither deserve nor should settle for second-class rights.

What happens next? The only thing worse than having no regional human rights declaration is having one riddled with restrictions, caveats, provisos and balancing acts. It is not difficult to imagine such a document emerging from Asean if some member states have their way. However, there are strong enough, and certainly dedicated enough, to fight for the better, and within the AICHR itself, there are those who are determined to see that dread to be temporarily a healthy dose of hope.

As the task force begins its work, it must reflect the values of the human rights instrument it is working to create. In drafting it, the task force should promote openness, closed backrooms are not the place to draft effective human rights documents.

The failure of the AICHR to help the relatives of the Ampatuan massacre was clearly disappointing, but it does not mean that it is doomed to fail. Rather, it should be a rallying point for Asean's regional human rights activists to redouble their efforts to promote and protect human rights in Southeast Asia. If the HUMN's reaction to the victims of that massacre was a first step in the wrong direction, a strong, clear Human Rights Declaration fully reflecting universal human rights standards will be a step in the right direction.

With the drafting of an Asean Human Rights Declaration, the unfolding dream of having a real and effective human rights protection system in Asean...this is the time, and the task force should be to finish "but yet" into "Right here."

• • •

Rowena Ann Guest is deputy director of Amnesty International's Asia-Pacific Program.

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The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Why all this talk of a rice shortage?

THE REPORT that this year's palay output is expected to be 2.2 million metric tons (MMT) below the 17.1 metric ton target is a surprise. This translates to a huge 13 percent or 2.7 MMT decline from the 16.3 tons production in 2009 to 14.2 tons in 2010. Rarely a month ago on Aug. 20, 2010, the Bureau of Agriculture Statistics (BAS) announced output to dip to 2010 by less than 1 percent—to 16.269 tons.

Remember, too, as even a period of 35 years, rice production from 1999 to 2008 was consistently on the rise. The record was stopped by a severe El Niño in 1997, causing harvest to drop by 24 percent in 1998. But the harvest bounced back by 5.2 tons or 30 percent the following year.

In 2009, owing to the rainy season in September and October 2009, production was down to 16.266 tons, from the highest ever recorded in 2008 at 16.813 tons. It will be the first time that two years in a row, net domestic production will deteriorate, and measurably at that.

The government must get its calculations right for the planting season that, questions and answers will haunt in the dark, quarter production report, traditionally following significant climate hiccups around—as Ejigbo for several years, but the trend was reversed commencing 2004, will the farmers hold in 2010? Otherwise, expect a big surprise.

But the forecasts seem preliminary nevertheless as the agencies

PLANTING season: Why is Philippine rice production dropping?

But why release the figures at that point?

On the issue of rice consumption subsidies, the BPS is prepared to sell a 25 percent imported rice volume, the lowest rice grade at P25 per kilo against the P600 average $600 for acquisition cost or P30 per kilo for 1.35 tons in the first half of 2010. Clearly, the subsidy amounts to P1.3 billion, excluding taxes, duties and carrying cost and could have reached P2.6 billion at the previous considered price of P48.20 per kilo. Can the government sustain such losses?

How do we reconcile the prices? Buyers have a clue in mid-August 2010, international prices of 25 percent rice grades is [illegible] or no surprise, rose to $475 per mt, while the minimum export price for 25-percent "rice brokens" was raised to $433 per ton (only $withdrawn it to raise for the tariffs to not rise market.

What's still how the prices visible down in the process of the [illegible] and the rice consumers in general is called a rice crisis product?

—RANULFO BONOAN,
manuelbonoan@yahoo.com

Development projects drive away communist insurgency

I WAS a nurse from the Riverside Medical Center in Bacolod City and we were visited Barangay 5 Dumarayo, a mountain barangay in Cottabalagui City, Negros Occidental. The place was very peaceful and hosts improvements into possible water systems, schools, day care centers, roads and livelihood assistance for farmer wives. There were also elementary [illegible] players, TV sets and a satellite dish, among so many other things.

This barangay was assisted by the 11th (IB, SO Philippine Army and was cleared of the New People's Army that once landed over the place and caused the very poor barangay to live in shambles and deprivation. The transformation experience was really amazing, even memorable.

This is the reason I was in the barangay to read in the papers that President Aquino has decided to scrap development projects for poor barangays like the Kalinga-Apayao in Barangay of NPP projects. These projects have helped these communities in no uncertain terms and [illegible] the situation and this [illegible] from the NPA.

It is very hopeful, just as many others, government and social workers, soldiers and those people who have experienced the fruits of these development projects, that the government will continue to these such projects. We cherish the return of the NPA as we have already gained so much in terms of peace and development.

—ELIZABETH B. CALDERON-REYES,
rosarinaalde@yahoo.com
0 yahoo.com

LETTERS

Call for higher 'sin taxes' hailed

WE WELCOME the call of President Aquino for reforms on excise taxes on sin products, including tobacco and cigarettes. He said: "There is a revised economic case to be the idea of an increase in excise tax. There are trade-offs to any kind, there are products have a health hazard on the people, and the health burden has a price tag."

We believe that higher excise taxes, particularly on tobacco and cigarettes, will not only address the non-economic and collateral damage; it will also increase revenues for the government.

But after taxes, tobacco-related illnesses claim the lives of millions. In the Philippines alone, at least 80,000 die every year (or about 219 Filipinos die every hour) from smoking-related diseases. Increasing taxes on tobacco products is the most effective measure to reduce tobacco consumption. Studies consistently show that an increase in tobacco prices would lead to a significant reduction of tobacco use—such that a 10 percent increase in price would reduce demand by about 4 percent in low- and middle-income countries.

The World Health Organization estimates that in 2005 that there 200,000 Filipino men would die of smoking-related diseases in their productive years. It is not unlikely that corporate health care by these men [illegible] to the government [illegible] would see Filipino taxpayers some P40 billion. These added expenses are [illegible] enough to increase taxes in order to increase revenues for the government. The increased revenue from increased excise taxes can be used for a number of programs—e.g., to fund its health promotion and to support the tobacco farmers to convert to other crops.

The reform measure will significantly contribute to PNoy's commitments to achieve health outcomes and address the problem of low tax revenue in general. The revenue from the specific tax on tobacco, because it is tax-indexed to inflation, has been a failure in its primary objective. Without new legislation that will [illegible] the excise tax on tobacco products, we will expect a further fall in tax effort. The reform of the excise tax on tobacco products, therefore, is a necessary condition for the country to meet a fiscal [illegible].

In all these reasons, we urge our legislators to heed the President's call. Impose higher [illegible] taxes now!

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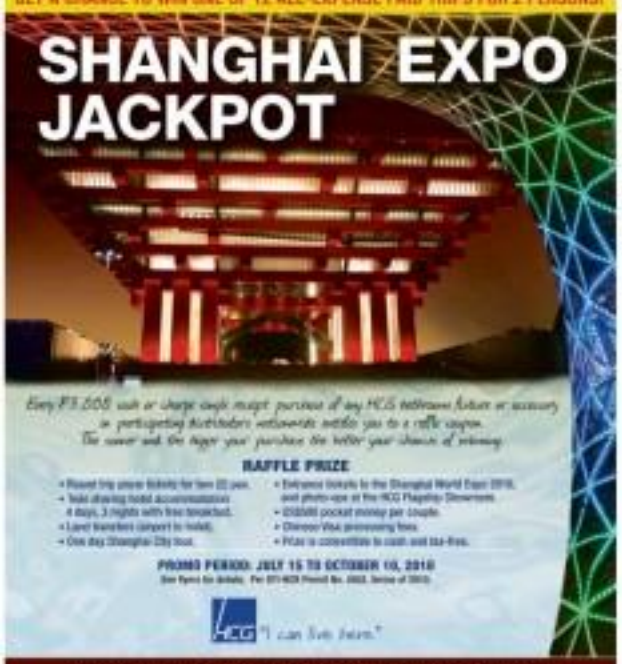
SHANGHAI EXPO JACKPOT



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PROMO PERIOD: JULY 15 TO OCTOBER 15, 2010

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4602, Series of 2010.

HCG "I can live here."

Congratulations to the winners of the 1st and 2nd Raffle Draw!

1st Draw Winners:
Jose Jaring of Zambales and Maria Torres of Sampaloc, Manila

2nd Draw Winners:
Yolanda Banson of Quezon City; Tiffany Asis Sala of Las Piñas City
Rico Go of Quezon City; and Isabel Dimasuay of Baguio City

ANNOUNCEMENT

The HCG Shanghai Expo Jackpot Grand Raffle Draw will be moved from October 15, 2010 - Friday to October 16, 2010 - Saturday at 4:00PM at Wilcon Builders Depot, Balintawak, Quezon City.
Announcement is made with prior approval of Department of Trade and Industry with the DTI-NCR Permit No. 4602, Series of 2010.

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Smuggling raps vs small oil firm with ₱8.5B imports filed

A COMPANY engaged in a multibillion-peso oil importation business was recommended of just P1 million each in settling more than a dozen of oil smuggling. But Bureau of Customs (BOC) controller said.

The BOC filed smuggling charges against Cross Country Oil and Petroleum Corp. in the tax department, describing it as a "small, undercapitalized company that was able to import nearly ₱8.5 billion worth of petroleum products between March 2009 and September this year."

As it stepped up its drive against smuggling, the Aquino administration said it would also clamp down on tax evasion by investigating the offshore bank accounts of Filipinos.

The announcements came a day after the Department of Finance passed regulations that will allow it to swap bank information on individuals as part of an international convention to curb tax evasion.

Blamed responsibility in the charge sheet filed by the BOC were Alkik Iyda Arellano, a customs worksheeter and broker of Cross Country Oil and Petroleum Corp., and Arturo Maximilian Zapanta, the company's general manager.

Also charged were Samuel Mateo, duties and full refund supervisor of Cross Country; customs broker Jerome Canada and several John and Jane Does, among them customs employees.

Cross Country's main office is at the World Trade Exchange Building in San Lazaro Leisure Park in Manila.

In a press statement, Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez said Arellano and Zapanta were cited for incurring their accountable liabilities in connection with investigating the offshore bank accounts of Filipinos.

The announcements came a day after the Department of Finance passed regulations that will allow it to swap bank information on individuals as part of an international con-

(see page A11)

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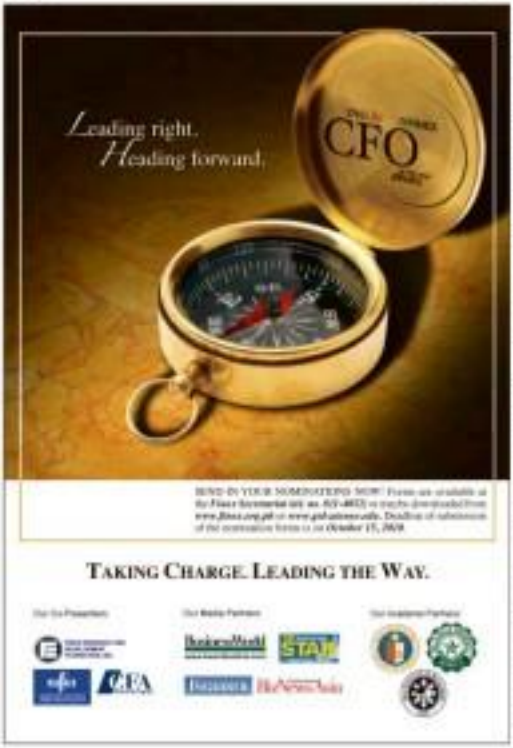

SEND IN YOUR NOMINATIONS NOW! Forms are available at the Finance Secretariat (tel. no. 815-4802) or may be downloaded from www.finance.pag.ph or www.gad.science.edu. Deadline of submission of the nomination forms is on October 15, 2010.

TAKING CHARGE. LEADING THE WAY.

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NFA gets subsidy budget, to keep buying local rice

By Kristine L. Alave

WORKERS carry sacks of rice for stacking at an NFA warehouse in Manila. —

THE NATIONAL Food Authority will buy more palay from farmers starting next year under a three-year plan following a pledge from government to raise the NFA will get its P6.5 billion war subsidy budget for 2011.

NFA Administrator Angelito Banayo, in an interview, said the Department of Agriculture (DA) has agreed to give them P2.5 billion from the P5-billion budget earmarked for public-private partnerships.

"So we agreed to a (smaller) subsidy support in exchange for the immediate disbursement of the P6 billion rice subsidy of 2010," Banayo said.

"We still lie-able use (the P6 billion) for palay procurement in the next months," he added.

The NFA subsidizes palay production and rice consumption of poor Filipinos by "buying high" and "selling low."

It also imports rice to close the gap between local production and consumption and for buffer stocks.

The agency buys grains from farmers at P17 per kilo and sells it between P18 and P20, depending on the type of rice.

Banayo said their main clients were the urban poor and lower-income Filipinos.

Buy more rice from farmers

The NFA board itself in a private-public session recently after the Department of Finance and the Department of Budget and Management recommended the removal of the NFA subsidy budget next year.

Banayo said without the subsidy, Filipinos would be unprotected from the whims of rice traders, who could raise rice prices whenever they wanted to. It would also discourage farmers from planting rice, he added.

With fresh funds from the DA and the government's pledge to release the P6 billion immediately, the NFA is looking at a rice subsidy budget of P8.5 billion in 2011.

Banayo said it would buy more rice from farmers in the next three years as part of the DA's self-sufficiency plan.

"In tandem with the rice self-sufficiency plan, we will increase procurement in the ideal 10 per cent of the total production by 2013," he said.

10 percent is significant

At present, the NFA buys only 4 percent of rice produced by farmers. It plans to increase it gradually within the next three years—6 percent next year, 8 percent by 2012, and 10 percent by 2013.

The 10 percent increase, Banayo said, would be enough "to significantly affect the market."

With government intervention, the farmers would be better protected, he said, since NFA prices were considered the benchmark in the market.

With the subsidy and guarantee that the government would buy their grains, farmers would plant more rice and reduce the country's reliance on imported rice.

The Philippines is currently the world's top rice importer.

Good harvest

Reports circled reports that the country was expected to import a total of 1.6 million metric tons of rice in 2010.

That figure, he said, was "way too high" as the shortfall between local production and consumption was 1.1 million metric tons.

This year's Housing Fair, organized by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), will not only be about affordable homes, financing deals and new shelter technologies, but also a celebration of hope for a better future for the whole family.

Housing Fair is about true progress – VP Binay

This year's Housing Fair, organized by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), is not only an exhibition of affordable homes, but is ultimately about "authentic progress."

This is the statement of Vice President Jejomar Binay, concurrent Chairman of the HUDCC, regarding the Housing Fair to be held on October 1 to 3 at the SM Megamall Megatrade Hall.

Binay linked the event to the ultimate goal of President Aquino's transformational leadership to bring about progress "that benefits the entire nation, not just a privileged few."

"This Housing Fair is a good starting point for families to experience such progress," he said.

According to Binay, the event was organized to provide the average working Filipino "a unique chance to search for affordable homes, as well as for realistic opportunities to own one."

The Housing Fair will feature acquired properties of key shelter agencies and government financial institutions on sale at discounted prices, as well as new housing units from private developers.

"This is a housing event envisioned not for business, but for the people. It is my hope that at the end of it, more Filipinos will become homeowners," he said.

The Vice President will formally open the event, and will also conduct a dialogue with various housing stakeholders.

"It is my hope that this event will further solidify our renewed dedication to a dynamic and responsible housing sector that truly serves the interests of the Filipino people," he added.

With the theme, "Kay ganda ng bukas, ang ating simulan ngayon" (The finest day ever starts today), the fair will be a colorful celebration of hope for a better future for Filipino families.

House-hunting families may choose from 113,000 units of discounted prices, part of the inventory of foreclosed properties being offered on sale by six government institutions—the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF or Pag-IBIG Fund), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC), Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC), and Social Security System (SSS).

Aside from these, new housing units will also be on exhibit from no less than 57 participating private developers. Some of the developers will be conducting product presentations during the event.

The Pag-IBIG Fund, the biggest provider of affordable housing finance to Filipino workers, will conduct on-the-spot counseling sessions and membership orientation to those interested in purchasing homes.

The event will also showcase housing-related products and technologies from the foundation of innovative Technologies (INTECH) and allied companies and companies. Among the exhibitors are Eco panel for pre-fabricated low-cost housing materials, Sulacel Fiber for fiber board and roofing materials, Color Steel for GI sheets roofing, MAPECON for tennis courts, and PHINMA.

Vice President Jejomar Binay, Chairman of the HUDCC, will formally open the event and also lead an Ugnayan sa Pabahay forum, where he will personally address questions from stakeholders.

The Housing Fair will also be a fun family affair, featuring an all contest for the children of employees of key shelter agencies and participating government financial institutions, as well as Bingo games for interested buyers.

The colorful event will have some added celebrity sparkle with the appearance of popular actor and Housing Ambassador Robin Padilla.

Since 2006, the HUDCC has spearheaded the undertaking of four (4) housing fairs, which resulted in the sale of 32,346 acquired residential units valued at P10.494 billion pesos.

PANGANGAILANGAN NG MGA GIDO

Pwedeng makabili ng acquired asset ng mga Kliba at tatlo ang lahat ng emabeyada ng gobyerno at mga empleyado sa pribadong sector basehe ang Overseas Filipino Workers at mga self-employed.

Ayon sa pahayagan sa General Appropriations Act (GAA), ang mga taga-home-city ng property kuwan mula sa sektor ng gobyerno ay dapat hindi kaibahan sa P1,000.

Ang GSIS, SSS at Pag-IBIG Fund ay tumatanggap ng kanyang-gang dokumento na nagpapatunay na kinita ng nangungupang o kung ng ensured asset para ng kita sa sari-sari store, at iba pa. Ang mga ahensiyang ito ay pumapayag din na "tumira ng" ng co-borrowers. Tinatanggap ng Pag-IBIG Fund ang co-borrowers na Pag-IBIG members din hanggang sa third degree of consanguinity or affinity.

PAPAANO BIG-TAG-AAPLAT O PAGPILI NG ACQUIRED ASSET

Puwedi sa mga taktikan ng acquired assets:

- Mahanap dumiri, magpunta sa booth ng sailing agency para kuhuha ng kanilaglang impormasyon sa property ng gustong bilhin.
- Mag-fill out ng reservation form ng sailing agency.
- Aktuwal na pumahan ang property na gustong bilhin kapo magbayad ng reservation fee or down payment.
- Magbayad ng reservation fee/down payment at matanti ang mga requirements sa optione ng sailing agency.

For more information on housing:
Please visit HUDCC at SM MEGAMALL
or call Housing Info Center, Call Center 141-0158
or visit our website: www.hudcc.gov.ph

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

BARANGAY, YOUTH POLLS

113 Negros Occidental villages watched

By Carla Gomez and Chito Aragon
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police (PNP) have placed 113 villages in Negros Occidental on their watch list for the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on Oct. 25.

Of the 113 barangays, 39 have former political rivalries and history of election-related incidents (Category 1), while 74 have reported sightings of armed rebels (Category 2), according to military and police records presented during a joint security conference with the Commission on Elections here on Wednesday.

There are 600 barangays in Negros Occidental, excluding the 61 in Bacolod City, which is a highly urbanized city.

Among the 21 cities and municipalities of the province, Calatrava topped the list with 14 barangays belonging to Category 2, police records also showed.

Meanwhile, the police supervised the number of watched areas to drop after another round of validations to be made in coordination with the Comelec and the Army in the next weeks, said Supt. Ronaldo Devaia, PNP spokesperson in Silay City.

Provincial elections supervisor Jessie Suarez, who presided over the joint security conference at the Provincial Capitol here, said they hoped to replicate during the barangay and SK polls the same election-related incidents experienced in the May 2010 polls.

"This is intolerable if there is cooperation among the various stakeholders," he said.

Supt. Roderick Augustus Alba, officer in charge of the Negros Occidental Police Provincial Office (NOPPO), said during the conference that the police, in coordination with the Army, have put in place security measures for the October elections.

These included the conduct of checkpoints, the activation of election-monitoring action centers in all police units under the NOPPO and the setting up of Joint Security Control Centers, he said.

The police in Central Visayas have also started containing 31 barangays in the region considered possible election hotspots in the barangay and SK polls.

Senior Supt. Felicisimo Corocoador Jr., chief of the Regional Intelligence Division (RID), said reporters during the assembly forum, Talakayan ng Inyong Pulis (TNP), held Wednesday that three of the 31 villages were in the Cebu towns of Bogo, Tabuelan and Cordova.

The 28 other barangays are in Negros Oriental and Bohol, Coronacoborador said.

Chief Supt. Agni Ortog, chief of the PNP in Central Visayas, also assured during the same forum that the police in the region have put in place measures to secure the elections and have enough personnel to be deployed in critical areas.

Private school teachers may be tapped for ARMM polls

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Private school teachers and civil servants in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) may have to be tapped to address the projected shortage of teachers guarding to serve as election inspectors for the Sangguniang Kabataan and barangay elections, a poll official said.

Boy Sumalipao, director of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) for the ARMM, said the parliament is being encouraged to a ruling that prohibits teachers from serving in their own villages.

"Teachers running from the same barangays and municipalities are disqualified to serve," he said.

Sumalipao said election inspectors have to be bobbed in 1,945 villages.

"There are municipalities where we also lack teachers," he said.

Sumalipao said one of the reasons they have thought of is to tap private school teachers in the region.

Armed personnel

"Elite teachers from private schools and civil service employees to serve in Board of Election Inspectors. In extreme cases, we can ask for military personnel to perform poll duties," he said.

Another solution, Sumalipao said is to "ask authority from the Comelec en banc for choosing of precincts."

Sumalipao also said the conduct of the youth and village polls was becoming a security nightmare.

He said the sheer number of candidates and possible suspension of feuds were also among the concerns than the military and police had recognized when they listed 503 villages as election watch areas.

"It's really a headache for us. Definitely, we cannot provide security for every candidate," said ARMM police director Chief Supt. Benjamin dela Luna.

He said in the ARMM, each precinct has only 21 police personnel and that the number of police per municipality is about the same also.

This, he said, would result in the thin spreading of personnel, which could compromise security and safety of voters.

Lt. Col. Ben Dakoflan, Western Mindanao Command chief, said intense rivalry among candidates in the Sangguniang Kabataan and barangay elections could lead in flower violence.

During a recent meeting with Comelec officials in Western Mindanao, Senior Supt. Felix Escobal, Zamboanga police spokesperson, said they had expected the elections to be "very intense and politicos hotly contested."

Dakoflan said conflicts in some areas could also worsen the rivalry between candidates from Aljunda, Sagasir or Maidanao.

SAFE AND SOUND
These children snap while their parents tend to some vending at the Bagsic market, where fresh vegetables are abundant.

'Ondoy,' finance crisis hamper S. Luzon wage hike

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—Companies here blamed the lingering effects of the global financial meltdown and Tropical Storm "Ondoy" for the delay in the salary hike lobbied by social-crisis teachers Luzon.

But the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), which petitioned for the P75 hike on daily wage across the board in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon), lashed at the firms' reasoning as mere "trend-conditioning and excuse" to avoid the workers' demand.

Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board secretary Bienvenida dela Rosa recently said employers' associations claimed to not having fully recovered since the fiscal crisis in 2008 and the striking of typhoons in 2009.

"Some (firms) said they could not approve the wage hike this year, since we are already in the last quarter (of 2010) and the companies have not included in wage hike) in their budget. Others said P75 was too big for approving it would force them to shut down," Dela Rosa said of the employers' concerns aired during a regional wage consultation last week in Calamba City.

The meeting was attended by members of the Pambansa (Employers' Associations, business-outsourcing groups and associations of public and private companies.

Dela Rosa said 63,000 workers and around 200 companies were affected by the financial crisis, while exporting and small and medium enterprises suffered through the typhoons.

"We are still on the wait for the operations to completely recover. While the plight of the workers is considered, we have to go through the process of public hearings and discussions whether to approve (a wage hike) across the board or as staggered," said Mario Marcos, Laguna Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The minimum wage of around four million workers in the highly industrialized region remains at P260 to P328.

This is despite the overall approved wage increases in Central Visayas, Western Visayas and in Mindanao in July and August.

The TUCP filed its petition in April and said wage petitions are normally acted upon after 30 days.

'Not true'

"But we are really not at the back of the line, as other regions in Luzon have also yet to approve a wage hike" said Dela Rosa.

In Luzon, only the National Capital Region has granted a salary increase in July.

Francis Tolda, TUCP representative to the wage board, said companies should not blame the fiscal crisis, since only a few Filipino-owned firms were affected.

"That's not true. There were even a 5.5-percent growth in investment on an increase of their from $146 million to $164 million last June year," he said.

Tolda said they came up with the P75 wage petition based on the price adjustments and projection from 2006 to the end of 2010.

He said there were also no other wage petitions filed in the past two years.

Dela Rosa said the board would decide after the public hearings in the five provinces are concluded in November. The first is set on Oct. 8 in Quezon. *Marianne Claire, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

'Pansit' works against dengue in Albay town

LIBON, Albay—Residents here said "Punch Bati," Bicol's version of noodle which traces its origin in Batu town in Camarines Sur, has encouraged community folk to join regular clean-up activities to save villages from the dengue virus.

"Our mayor knows that the easiest way to one's heart is through the stomach, as the saying goes," said some residents interviewed by the Inquirer on Wednesday.

Libon Mayor Agnes Devanadera said that to encourage residents to participate in the cleanup, she sponsors a cleanup of rivers and canals every three months and every monthly during rainy days.

"I give each barangay one bolt of Punch Bati, which is about five kilos, so that while they are picking up the trash, collecting dirt and cleaning areas with stagnant water, some of them are cooking the noodles and later serve them (cooked) in small groups."

Libon, an awardee for its zero-dengue program, is working side by side with Albay Gov. Joey Salceda in encouraging other municipalities and cities in Albay to replicate its strategy or adopt their own strategies that would prove easily acceptable to and doable by their residents to attain a province-wide zero-dengue status by the end of the year.

"For practical rewards, the provincial government will give P500,000 as first prize, P250,000 as second prize and P100,000 as third prize," Salceda said.

For August, Libon garnered both awards for zero dengue and first for zero-dengue cases for the past six months out of the past eight months, and the lowest incidences of dengue cases for the other three months.

Anton Dermatilla, a resident of Barangay Panicuason, said the camaraderie in front of a Punch Bati snack farm has become a "spice" to the campaign to discouraging mosquitoes breeding places and even really reducing the number of dengue cases.

Albay is the second highest in dengue cases in the whole Bicol region but Libon managed to control the numbers.

"For the month of September, we have a zero dengue case, although one of our residents was bitten and affected by a dengue-carrying mosquito outside our town," Devanadera said.

Camille Aquino, DOH regional dengue coordinator, said all cases of deaths due to dengue were reported in Camarines Sur, two each in Albay and Sorsogon and one in Masbate.

He said Camarines Sur topped the list of dengue incidences with 884 cases, followed by Albay, 637; Sorsogon, 271; Catanduanes, 186; Masbate, 138, and Camarines Norte, 102 cases. *Roy M. Stead, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

HOMETOWN Snapshot

NEWSBRIEFS

● NAGA CITY

Boy shoots self

AN 8-year-old boy immediately died after accidentally shooting himself with his father's service firearm in Pinamungajan, Cebu, on Wednesday afternoon, a police official said.

The officer, however, requested not to be named and refused to give details of the incident out of respect for the mourning family of the victim, especially for the father who is also a local policeman.

The 8-year-old, identified as Jeremiah, reportedly was playing with the .45-caliber service pistol of his father inside their residence in Barangay San Felipe at around 2 p.m. with his other siblings when he accidentally shot himself in the head with the weapon.

The child suffered a bullet wound in his temple which caused his immediate death. The parents were not at home during the incident. The police source said the father would be facing an administrative case for negligence.

Jhaina M. Barcenas, Inquirer Southern Luzon

● BACOLOD CITY

Peace crusade

CHURCHES and evangelical ministers in the city were tapped on Monday to join a multinational Christian summit to contribute in formation of peace talks between the government and the National Democratic front of the Philippines (NDFP).

Bishop Oscar Magallanes of the Good News Community Church gathered local church leaders, including Methodist Bishop Rodolfo Juan and Imam Benjamin Abdullah, for a roundtable discussion with the Philippine Commercial Peace Platform.

Magallanes said the next stage of talks may be more difficult because it involves a comprehensive agreement on social and economic reforms that could lead to constitutional amendments. "It would be difficult but at least it would be the talks. Churches shy away [from politics] but we should be the fight that forsakes darkness," Magallanes said. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

● TAGAYTAY CITY

Tagaytay retreat

THE National Bureau will conduct a retreat titled "Peace of Mind: A Guide to Spiritual Journey" on Oct. 8 and 9 at its Center for Spiritual Learning in 1020 Magallanes Drive, Tagaytay City.

The program is open to whoever is interested in experiencing true positive change can be sustained, according to a press release.

The retreat will start at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 8 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9.

For details, call Vicky at (02)982-7906.

● KIDAPAWAN CITY

Mt. Apo trek opens

THE annual October Trek to the country's highest peak formally opened today with six trails that climbers can choose from.

Martha Perez, city tourism official, said the six trails on the towns of Magpet, Makilala and this city were officially opened with ceremony marked by author rites. *Williamor A. Magkawas, Inquirer Mindanao*

30,000 Guam jobs up for Laguna workers

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—The Guam government is expected to hire 30,000 Filipino workers to work in the expansion of the US military facility in the next three years, the mayor of this town said.

Mayor Calixto Catapat was hopeful about securing the jobs for the residents of this town and of other Laguna municipalities, after the local chief executive asked a statehood agreement with the mayors of eight Guam villages.

"We are very thankful they have chosen San Pedro. They will surely need construction workers, teachers and customer employees," Catapat said.

He said this amid the planned relocation of the US Naval Base from Okinawa to Guam that is expected to happen here 2011 to 2013.

He said Filipinos were most qualified for the jobs for being good English speakers.

The statehood agreement was made between San Pedro and the Guam villages of Asan-Maina, Santigada, Merizo, Piti, Santa Rita, Sinajana, Talofofo and Yamanting Simon Flatsun.

The agreement cited the bilateral cooperation on labor and employment, trade and investments, education and health, tourism, culture and arts, and disaster risk reduction management.

Talofofo Mayor Vicente Salagan said they could hire even up to 60,000 workers, saying "(Filipinos) are good workers and hard-working people."

"Hopefully the Filipinos would help build the islands of Guam. Guam and the Philippines have close relations," he said in an interview at the signing ceremony on Wednesday evening.

Half of the population of Guam, around 178,000, are Filipinos, Tatoogan said.

Last year, Guam Senator Judith Guthertz and Rory Respicio led a Guam delegation that met with Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority officials, and inspected skills training facilities here to find out if this former American naval base could serve as a training center for workers who will be sent to Guam for the project.

The project has been dubbed the "greatest United States military buildup since the end of World War II," following the impending relocation of thousands of US Marines from Okinawa to Guam. It will cost $21 billion and requires the hiring of 20,000 foreign workers.

Guthertz said their visit was meant "to establish understanding, and to learn more about the Philippines process," so that final agreement could soon be made. Marianne Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

ROAD-LESS
Villagers of Barangay Talpan, Tingloyan, Kalinga, cross grass fields to reach frontwood.

Indigenous Filipinos to choose next NCIP execs

BAGUIO CITY—Thirteen years since the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 (Ipra) was passed, the government is finally implementing a provision that allows indigenous peoples to select their own commissioners for the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

The NCIP has six of its seven commissioners after they were removed for being midnight appointees of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The situation became an opportunity for indigenous peoples' (IP) organizations to finalize a mechanism for endorsing their nominees for the commission, which represents seven ethnographic regions of the country, said Ifugao Rep. Teodoro Baguilat Jr., chair of the House committee on indigenous cultural communities.

Lawyer Roque Adan Jr. remains NCIP chair but President Aquino must soon appoint six commissioners. The NCIP exclusively represents the ethnographic areas composed of the Cordillera and the Bicols, Cagayan Valley, Central and Southern Luzon, the Visayas, northwestern Mindanao, central Mindanao and southern Mindanao.

Process

At a Wednesday news conference, lawyer Amadeo Bacay an, NCIP-Cordillera director, said the law requires the government to ensure stakeholders' endorsements before submitting appointee-nominations.

"But the process of submitting appointees to the commission had been facilitated by politicians for more than a decade," Bacay an said.

He said Baguilat had been coordinating with local IP organizations to draw up a process they would follow to facilitate their endorsements.

Baguilat said the IP people had been in touch with Victoria Elvia "Vicf" Aquino-Dee, who had been addressing IP affairs on behalf of her brother, President Aquino, since August.

But Baguilat said Ms. Aquino would soon endorse the NCIP under the supervision of the Office of the President, supposedly under the stewardship of Secretary Teresita Deles, who also runs the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

Apart from Baguilat and the IP groups, the Cordillera Regional Development Council also petitioned the government to remove the NCIP to the Office of the President, after it was issued arrested as an unlawful agency of the Department of Agrarian Reform, and subsequently as a bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said Bulatao.

Baguilat, in a telephone interview, said the recommendations of the NCIP has opened the doors for an oversight review of the way the agency had interpreted the Ipra.

He said some IP organizations had not been happy about Ipra's implementation and the process of harmonizing the indigenous peoples' law with other national laws has hampered its implementation.

Bulatao said the ancestral land titles had drawn criticisms from both business groups and local governments.

In Baguio, for example, the local government has sued to prevent the NCIP from intervening in a land dispute over a property titled. The city's lawyers also asked the Office of the Solicitor General to protest the nullification of certificates of ancestral land titles (CALT) issued for Baguio's forest lands.

A Philippine Information Agency report said 4.2 million hectares of lands around the country have been issued CALT and Certificates of Ancestral Domain Titles since 2006. The NCIP intends to issue land titles to a total of 7.7 million hectares of ancestral lands.

Baguilat said his committee is studying whether it should amend the Ipra to correct its weaknesses and strengthen its mandate. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Angat supplies water to save 25,000 ha of land

WATER at the Angat Dam remains low but much of it goes to the Ipo Dam that brings the water to La Mesa Dam in Quezon City to supply drinking water to Metroliner Metro Manila residents. But Bulacan and Pampanga farmers have asserted their share, getting only a relative trickle.

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—After easing off the irrigation supply of Bulacan and Pampanga for six months due to the long drought, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ordered the National Power Corp. to release water from the Angat Dam to save 25,000 hectares of rice land in the two Central Luzon provinces.

But the rescue plan, which the NWRB technical working group approved on Wednesday, would last for only 10 days from Sept. 30 to Oct. 9.

The plan was conditioned by Benjamin Boy Anna York Bonifacio, Bulacan Gov. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado and Manuel Collado, Central Luzon director of the National Irrigation Administration, in separate interviews.

Sy-Alvarado said the plan came through after he and Bonifacio held talks with Environment Secretary Ramon Paje, also the NWRB chair.

He said that he, Bonifacio and the Angat Maunlad River Irrigation System Farmers Confederation also formed a meeting with NWRB and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) to press for irrigation waters.

The Angat River Hydroelectric Power Plant (Arhepp) in Norzagaray, Bulacan, discharged 13 cubic meters per second (cms) via the Ipo Dam at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, increasing the volume to 20 cms by 7 a.m. on Thursday, according to Rodolfo Guzman, Arhepp general manager.

The volume of 20 cms is still shy of the 36 cms of irrigation water allotted for Bulacan and Pampanga farmers, Bonifacio said.

Angat Dam's water reached only 271.81 meters above sea level (masl) as of 10 a.m. Thursday.

Elevation dropped to 157 masl in April. The dam needs 180 masl to meet the requirements for irrigation, domestic water and electricity.

"The water level isn't really expected to shoot up fast because the MWSS is taking too much out daily," Bonifacio said.

Farmers had scoffed at the use the of drought as an excuse for the supply shortage, resulting instead the MWSS for allowing two of its private concessionaries to expand their service areas in Rizal and Cavite.

"The MWSS has not honored its own rules. Our farmers are supposed to get 36 cms of water. That's our regular allocation for 37 towns in Bulacan and four towns in Pampanga. [The MWSS] borrowed 10 cms in 1997 and has not returned that since. Worse, the 20 cms that it left us we can't get without proper coordination with our local chief executives," Sy-Alvarado said.

The only time the Angat River We hear the Angat Dam. We have every right to benefit from it," he said.

Built in 1967, the Angat Dam has been tied by the Umiray Transbasin, 54 km across the Sierra Madre range from Tanay and Quezon provinces, since 1998.

The Ipo Dam, 11 km before Angat Dam, takes in water to deliver to the La Mesa Dam in Quezon City. Only when the sockets to Ipo Dam are open will farmers get their irrigation shares, Collado said.

Guzman said the new irrigation supply would not affect the supply and needs of Metro Manila.

Bonifacio, vice-chair of the Senate appropriations committee, said: "I reminded them of their mandate to look and to give the needs of the farmers and not to concentrate on profits ... The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has millions of pesos to allocate for reforestation for irrigation purposes. They should remember the money on reforestation, including the Angat watershed."

Inquirer Region and Carmela Reyes-Ilogon, Inquirer Central Luzon

Davao mayor 'lukewarm' about coal-fired power plant

DAVAO CITY—Mayor Sara Duterte has politely opposed a proposal by Aboitiz Power Corp. to build a coal-fired power plant in the city.

Recently, the company's officials met with Duterte and discussed with her the project that aims to add about 300 megawatts of electricity to the city's power supply.

The project, Aboitiz officials said, would solve the projected power crisis that would hit Mindanao.

But in various media interviews here, Duterte said she was "lukewarm about the project."

"I do not advocate coal power plant. I told them about it. It is like mining. It will only bring more problems than solutions. In effects to the environment and the society on long term," Duterte told reporters here Wednesday.

She said she has asked Aboitiz representatives to instead look for alternative locations or explore options other than coal-fired power plant.

Ernesto Aboitiz, Aboitiz president and chief executive officer, had earlier admitted there still have no definite location for the coal-fired plant.

"We are hoping to start on time ... but right now, we are still identifying the location of the plant," Aboitiz said during a visit in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, last month.

Duterte said he would rather that Aboitiz built a hydropower plant, similar to its Sibulan plant.

The power company could also explore putting up wind farms, she said.

Aboitiz, however, admitted that her operations office would not stop the company from pursuing the project.

"We are in a democracy. If they get the approval of the majority of Davao, I would be forced to bow down to it," she said. Inquirer Mindanao

Black bugs attack Albay rice farms

LEGAZPI CITY—Black bugs have destroyed rice plants at close to a thousand hectares of farmlands in Albay with an estimated damage of P10.7 million, the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO) said on Thursday.

Rebel Linao, PAO chief, said a tiny black bug (Scotinophara coarctata) is a sap-feeding insect and one of the most difficult pests to manage.

Locally known as "itim na mangas," the rice black bug (RBB) attacks rice plants in irrigated areas at almost all stages of the plants' growth, particularly from maximum tillering to ripening stage.

Linao said the RBB ups the nutrients from the rice stalk, turning its leaves into yellowish and eventually drying it up to death.

He said they were continuously assessing the extent of damage brought by the RBB in areas affected and they are conducting continuous information drive on RBB management.

He said they have distributed mechanical trap amongst rice farmers, a biological control measure, to stop the spread of the pest.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda said the province's food security program is being threatened by the pest infestation, which he said is destroying 97% of the hundreds of hectares of farmlands in Tabaco, Daraga, Bitanggol and in Ligao City considered the rice granary of the province.

Emergency measures

"It's the first major incident of that magnitude in my memory, being a 49-year-old resident of Bitanggol where the black bug infestations are completely colossal. All signs lead to El Niño and climate change as the culprits," Salceda said in a text message.

He had asked the Department of Agriculture for assistance and directed the Albay Public Safety and Emergency and Management Office and the Provincial Agriculture Services Office to draw up emergency measures to curb the negative effects of the pest infestation in the province's agriculture sector, he said.

The RBB infestation was first reported in April this year, with close to 1,000 ha of rice lands affected in 40 villages from nine towns and city in the third district of the province.

Linao said the RBBs attack at night, especially when there is a moon.

"They also mount during the night, following the beam lights of trucks, the lightings of motorcycle and the moon; that is why they have reached as here although these pests came from the southern provinces of the Philippines," he said.

Linao said the RBB prefers marshy and wet land environment. The main habitat of this pest is the base of the rice plants.

"The bugs can live on the leaves of other plants like corn, cattail weeds, St. Augustine grass but can be seen at the base of the plants and move up to the panicles at night," he added. Mar-I. Arguelles and Joy M. Sinaul, Inquirer Southern Luxon

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Manila

INVITATION TO BID

This Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital invites interested bidders' contributions to bid for:

Name of Contract: PROVISION OF JANITORIAL SERVICES (30 janitors)
General Location: Manila
Approved Budget: P10,517,760/month (P1,051,776/month)

Bids received in excess of the Approved Budget for the contract shall be automatically rejected at bid opening. Bidders must have completed, within the last three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project, the value of which, adjusted to current prices using the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) Consumer Price Index, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC. For bidders, please contact telephone number 735-7161.

Schedule of Activities:

Pre-bid Conference	October 5, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
Bid Opening	October 12, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
Bid Evaluation	October 12, 2010, 10:00 a.m.

Venue: Family Planning Conference Room (Conference Room)

Only those who have purchased bidding documents shall be allowed to participate in the pre-bid conference.

All participants relative to eligibility, bid security, performance security, pre-bid conference, opening of bids, evaluation, post-qualification and award shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The DJFMH reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or waive any formality, award the contract to the lowest bidder as may be considered advantageous to the government.

The DJFMH - BAC secretariat is obligated to accommodate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) EDMUNDO C. TUZON, JR. D.
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI, October 1, 2010)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

INVITATION TO BID

For the Procurement of Board and Lodging for the conduct of Refresher Training on Disability Building of 4Ps Parent Leaders for Set 4 Municipalities

Item No.	Qty.	Unit	Activity	ABC
1	1	lot	Tanauan City	P 1,312,500.00
2	1	lot	Tanauan City	P 1,312,500.00
3	1	lot	Tanauan City	P 1,312,500.00
4	1	lot	Tanauan City	P 1,312,500.00
5	1	lot	Tanauan City	P 1,312,500.00
6	1	lot	Tanauan City	P 1,312,500.00
			TOTAL ABC	P 7,875,000.00

Bidders should be accredited by the concerned Regional Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (RPBAC) and must have completed, within the last three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project, the value of which, adjusted to current prices using the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) Consumer Price Index, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC.

Bidding documents may be purchased from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the bidding documents in the amount of P5,000.00.

Bids received in excess of the Approved Budget for the contract shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

Bidders must submit their bids through the address below on or before 9:00 a.m. of October 12, 2010. Late bids shall not be accepted.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stipulated in the Bidding Documents.

Bid opening shall be on October 12, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity.

The DSWD reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information, please refer to:

(PDI, October 1, 2010)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Committee on Bids, Awards and Disposal of Bank's Properties (CBADBP)
Regional Office — Tuguegarao City

INVITATION TO BID

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES	MINIMUM BID
One (1) parcel of residential land* situated in Carig Norte, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, registered in the name of Land Bank of the Philippines, Aparri Branch, described as follows:	P1,000,000.00

1. TCT No. T-19722 (LRC Lot 1688-B-2-D) of the subdivision plan (LRC) Psd-86-002 containing an area of 191 square meters, more or less.

Improvements thereon:
* One (1) storey industrial commercial building with a floor area of 191 square meters, more or less.

* An old sq. mt. building of wood materials; and
* Concrete perimeter fence with an area of about 170 sq.mts.

Prospective bidders may conduct ocular inspection of the properties during office hours and may secure further information from the Office of the Branch Manager, Land Bank of the Philippines, Aparri Branch, Aparri, Cagayan, Tel. No. (078) 888-2011.

Interested bidders may submit their sealed bids to the Committee on Bids, Awards and Disposal of Bank's Properties (CBADBP) at the Regional Office, Land Bank of the Philippines, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, Tel. No. (078) 844-2000, Fax No. (078) 844-2001, on or before 2:00 p.m. of October 20, 2010.

Bidders may be present during the opening of bids.

The CBADBP reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any formality therein, or accept the offer most advantageous to the Bank.

Bidders may be required to submit additional requirements as may be necessary.

For more information, please contact the Chairman, CBADBP, Land Bank of the Philippines, Regional Office, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, Tel. No. (078) 844-2000.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ROMEO C. CARRASCO
Chairman, CBADBP
Regional Director
Region II

DBP
Banking on Filipinos

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the:

Project	Quantity	Approved Budget for the Contract* (Exclusive of Value-Added Tax)	Cost of Bid Documents
Re-Grounding/Reinstallation of the following: 1. DBP-UNI 2. Ermita Center 3. Pagsanjan-Rio Vista Branch	1 Lot	P5,000,000.00	P5,000.00

*Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening

Project Completion: Ninety (90) calendar days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed

Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Pre-Bidding Conference	October 12, 2010 9:30 a.m.	Training Center, DBP Building, Time Bldg. corner Dominga Sts., Cagayan de Oro City
Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	October 26, 2010 9:45 a.m.	DBP Accreditation, 2nd Flr. DBP Building, Time Bldg. corner Dominga Sts., Cagayan de Oro City
Opening of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	October 26, 2010 10:00 a.m.	Training Center, DBP Building, Time Bldg. corner Dominga Sts., Cagayan de Oro City

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the revised IRR of R.A. 9184 and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations, with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Only Bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. Any bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo the post-qualification steps to enable to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. Any contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who has demonstrated the best ability to carry out the contract.

Interested parties may download bid forms at www.devbankphil.com.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Prospective bidders may secure the bid documents and Eligibility Requirement Forms from the BAC Secretariat, Project Monitoring Committee Section, Mezzanine, 2nd Floor, Time Bldg. corner Dominga Avenue, Cagayan de Oro City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P 5,000.00.

The prospective bidders are advised to check the Bank's website and the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PHILGEPS) for bid bulletin and announcements regarding the project.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive the bidding process, or annul the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 858-9555 or 726-8540 loc. 141.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI, October 1, 2010)

NEWS

'Let us train the police because most of them are not trained when it comes to human rights ...'

PNP chief says 90% of arrests tainted with rights violations

BAGUIO CITY—The chief of the Philippine National Police has ordered new rounds of refresher courses on human rights for performers after discovering that 90 percent of arrests made by the police had failed to observe the rights of citizens.

Director General Raul Bacalzo, who attended the third quarterly meeting of the Cordillera Regional Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee here on Wednesday, said the police response during the assault-related Aug. 23 bus hijacking in Manila and a video recording of a policeman torturing a suspected thief provided the PNP valuable insights into police procedures today.

The torturing scandal for municipality for all police officers, regardless of rank, he said.

"There is always an impression that human rights violations are committed whenever there is an investigation [being conducted by the police]. The search and seizure operations [of police officers] in all probability has human rights violation by 90 percent," he said.

Bacalzo said police have detected irregularities in the manner by which a suspect is handcuffed by arresting officers.

Public impression also convinced the PNP to undertake a fresh review of its human rights record.

Bacalzo said 4,000 respondents in a recent PNP survey indicated that public respect accorded to law enforcers was less because ordinary citizens believe the police had the tendency to abuse their authority.

"We asked the respondents what were the poor qualities which they did not like [about our] policemen. [The survey said] when they did not want were policemen who were rude, arrogant and abusive," he said.

"Let us train the police because most of them are not trained when it comes to human rights. I also directed the police regional directors to review the police operational procedures."

He said the PNP would supplement basic police training with eight hour classroom lectures on investigation as well as new modules on human rights and proper arrest protocols.

"Even the mode of the [police officer 1] would be knowledgeable in detention and investigation, and even the limits of a simple arrest," he said.

He said policemen would also undergo a refresher course on good manners to make them more accessible to the public. Desiree Cafiana, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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AFP pushes bid for law to give free legal help

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines is seeking the passage of a law that would provide legal support for soldiers accused of human rights violations during counter-insurgency operations.

Brig. Gen. Jose Mabanta, AFP spokesperson, said in an interview in Camp Aguinaldo on Wednesday that cases of human rights violations had delayed and adversely affected the conduct of military operations against so-called enemies of the state.

Mabanta said that some AFP officials met recently with Rep. Rene Relampagos (1st District, Bohol), chair of the House committee on human rights, to seek his support for the proposed piece of legislation.

The AFP officials also updated the congressman on military efforts to improve its human rights record.

Promotion at stake

According to Mabanta, the prospect of military personnel being denied promotions due to pending human rights cases was one of the key issues discussed with Relampagos.

The AFP spokesperson said soldiers and officers facing cases of rights violations, such as those filed in the Office of the Ombudsman, are deprived of promotions and retirement benefits.

"We have to treat all of these things so we brought that out. We said, 'please help us because our house runs because rights violations are in line of duty,'" he said.

Mabanta said the AFP wanted Congress to enact legal fees and provide free legal services for soldiers charged with human rights violations in the performance of their duties.

Funding priority

He said the resources given to the AFP by Congress usually fall short because of the meager budget allotted for counter-insurgency efforts.

Mabanta said some soldiers lose their cases due to lack of lawyers in the AFP or because they were unable to hire good private lawyers.

In the Philippine army for example, there is only one lawyer per infantry division, which is usually composed of 7,000 to 8,000 soldiers, he said.

Mabanta said Army soldiers were usually tagged in human rights complaints because they were principally involved in internal security operations.

Harassed

He said some of the cases filed against soldiers were actually just meant to harass and stop them.

"Most of it are [committed] in line of duty or in line with the mission, attainment of the mission," he said.

There were also times, Mabanta said, when the AFP was forced to cop legal services outside the AFP.

In matters like this, he said the accused soldiers were held back from the performance of their mission or to the middle of operations because they were distracted by the legal complaints against them.

Aplus METRO
Editor Aberdeen S. Ulanday

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'EVERYBODY IS A SUSPECT'

NBI probes Taft blast

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has joined the police investigation into a grenade blast on Sunday that wounded 44 persons, as its agents conducted an inspection of the site yesterday on Taft Avenue.

As investigators continued to sift through evidence and statements gathered since the blast, Manila Police District (MPD) officer in charge Chief Supt. Roberto Rosqueta told reporters that the special investigation task group, Bar Operations 2010-1, is still evaluating information and sworn statements taken from witnesses for submission to the Supreme Court.

"Everybody is considered a suspect," he said. "While we want to solve this at once, and are eyeing the involvement of a group, we have to be sure about our facts."

Part of the evaluation, he said, was to find out whether or not the grenade thrown is a law student or a member of a fraternity.

The fact that a member of the Ateneans family also took the examination is also being taken in consideration, Rosqueta added. "Anything is possible," he said.

Members of the Ateneans family have been implicated in other bar known as the Megaphone case that resulted in the death of 37 persons last November.

The MPD official said that although there are reports that one of the witnesses wanted to take back his sworn statement, the affidavit has not been withdrawn.

Investigation task group head and MPD District 9 commander Supt. Feorillo Galahad supervised the mugging of Jed Carlo Laxaga, 24, a fourth year law student of the University of San Jose Recoletos School of Law in Cebu, minutes after the blast.

Galahad said Laxaga had allegedly been beaten up and accused of participating in the grenade blast by several members of a fraternity that participated in the bar operations.

Agents of the technical division of the NBI National Capital Region and the Counter-Terrorism Unit conducted an inspection of the site yesterday along the southbound lane of Taft Avenue near De La Salle University—where the bar examinations took place—as part of a parallel investigation of the blast.

The team measured the 15-meter radius around a small crater created by the blast to determine how the victims got their injuries.

The incident marred Sunday's vicious festivities traditionally held by law students to celebrate the last day of the bar examinations.

DID YOU KNOW

THE PASSERBY of Talisaysay Walang Iwan Ka Sa Cebu, Rizal, Bulgaria star Ms. Paula Valenzuela Ibarra, was sent to the Philippines in 1960s and was assigned to Philippine Orthopedic Center, where she saw the plight of the disabled which brought about her eagerness to improve their lives.

Zaida Belaba Inquirer Research

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Cops charge woman with aunt's murder

By Beverly T. Hamerlad

THE POLICE have filed charges against the niece of a woman whose body was stuffed into a black suitcase and then dumped on Road 10 in Congress Village, Caloocan City, last week.

On Wednesday, the police charged Ruby Dagsacal, 23, with the murder of her aunt, Nery S. Buenaventura, at the Caloocan Regional Trial Court after they found evidence pointing to her as the primary suspect in the victim's death.

Chief Insp. Rodrigo Inciong, head of the Motor Investigation and Detection Management Bureau of the Caloocan police, told the Bulletin that investigators went over the house the victim shared with her niece in North Caloocan.

"We conducted an ocular inspection of the house to exhaust all possibilities relating to the crime. Investigators smelled something foul in the house and found traces of blood [on] a pillow cases and bed sheets," Inciong said.

He added that one of the suspect's neighbors told them that they saw her carrying a big black suitcase on Sept. 25, the day the victim went missing.

Buenaventura's 4-year-old daughter also told the police that she saw the suspect repeatedly washing bloodstained bed sheets after her mother disappeared.

Inciong said police were looking at subpoena the movies on the killing.

A day after Buenaventura disappeared, Dagsacal pawned several pieces of jewelry for P15,000 at the Grimaco Distillery branch in Zabarte, Caloocan.

Buenaventura's body, which was found inside a suitcase, was clad only in a white T-shirt and underwear. Police said she had been hit in the head with a blunt object which has not been found nor identified.

Investigators were able to identify her through calling and identification cards found near her body. When they went to the victim's house, the suspect told them that they were not there because on Sept. 22 we go to Davao City.

Police: Train thieves . . . From page A24

See the first eight months of the year, the rail police recorded 28 incidents of theft, a sharp decrease from last year's 122, according to records. Umayam attributed this to the increase in the number of rail police-men.

He advised the riding public to be very cautious about the people around them, particularly those who keep on hulking around. Chances are, that person is profiling a potential victim, he said.

With Jeannette I. Andrade

FX taxis parked on Edsa . . . From page A15

dent of agreement between the group and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority allowing them to use the North Rail Road Station on the Edsa side of the mall as terminal.

A leader of an FX taxi organization, North Triangle Intermodal Transport Alliance, said the mall was asking for a membership fee ranging from P10,000 to P20,000.

"We cannot afford to pay the amount. We have been negotiating for a compromise fee," the transport leader said.

De Guzman said that based on a report submitted to him, the mall management had allotted another area for the FX taxis to use as a terminal for free.

He added that as of press time, negotiations between the mall management and leaders of the FX taxi association were still ongoing.

Policemen have been deployed to the area to ensure that no untoward incident would take place and peace and order are maintained," De Guzman said.

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MPD CHIEF'S DAUGHTER LATEST VICTIM?

Police: Train thieves well-dressed, wilier

By Mike Navallo

TODAY'S thieves are harder to spot because they make an effort to blend in with their victims, according to chief of the rail police who are in charge of securing the overhead train systems in Metro Manila.

Chief Insp. Charlie Umayam said that most of the pickpockets he's ever had arrested on the Light Rail Transit (LRT) lines and Metro Rail Transit (MRT) were well-dressed and could pass for professionals.

"Today it's hard to spot a pantle on people as suspect to be pickpockets and snatchers because they adapt to the environment," Umayam told the bulletin in an interview. "Before, the police could easily spot a suspect in a crowd," he added.

In a related development, a police source said the daughter of Manila Police District (MPD) officer in charge Chief Supt. Roberto Rosignolla lost an iPhone to a thief on Wednesday afternoon.

Marie Jocelyn Rosignolla was waiting for the train at the Doroteo Jose station of the LRT Line 1 when she noticed that her cellphone was missing.

Although the incident was not recorded in a police blotter, the source said Rosignolla summoned the head of the MPD theft and robbery section and ordered the officer to go after the robbers who had victimized his daughter.

The investigator called up Rosignolla's son-in-law the incident has been resolved.

The source, however, said Rosignolla ordered his men to immediately solve the case with the help of the rail police.

Meanwhile, Umayam also said that the growing number of commuters using the LRT or MRT could either be an advantage or disadvantage.

Due to the huge volume of people gathered at a platform waiting for the train to arrive, thieves would find it hard to escape after they are spotted, he explained. On the other hand, the huge crowd also makes it difficult for the police to prevent thefts from taking place.

Umayam said that thieves have become more wily and new employ strategies to make it harder for the police to arrest them. For example, robbers now work in groups with each member assigned a different task. One member of a robbery gang would be in charge of bumping into or shoving the target while another one would pick the victim's pocket while a third member serves as a lookout.

"It makes the job easier for the robber when he operates with a group because he can immediately pass on the things he stole to other members," he said. "In other instances, some of the thieves are no more because they know they'll easily escape liability."

Umayam urged the public to immediately report incidents of theft and to file charges so that the suspects would end up in jail instead of just being allowed to walk.

He said that thieves usually operate in what they claim to be their "turf wars," particularly in areas where there are more passengers like the MRT's North Avenue and Araneta Center-Cubao stations and the Monumento and Carriedo stations of the LRT Line 1.

Umayam said he expected robbery or theft cases to increase with the onset of the holiday season although he added that he would deploy more men to augment the 500-strong rail police.

ROSARIO SAN

FX taxis parked on Edsa snarl traffic

By Nancy C. Carvajal

MOTORISTS again endured long hours on the road along the northbound route on Edsa near North Avenue in Quezon City as 700 drivers and operators of FX taxis parked their vehicles on the road after their terminal was ordered shut down yesterday.

Supt. Dionisio de Guzman said the permits of FX taxi operators allowing them access to the North Road Terminal at Edsa-North Triangle, Quezon City as a terminal had expired yesterday and was ordered closed by the management of Trinoma mall.

"There was no untoward incident but there was congestion in the area because some the FX taxis took over two lanes of North Avenue Road," De Guzman added.

He said traffic went back to normal only after his men asked the FX taxi drivers to give way to other motorists.

The police official said the FX taxi association had been negotiating for the renewal of the memorandum

FX CAB drivers block a portion of Edsa as they protest the closing down of their terminal near Trinoma Mall in Quezon City. NOEL CABRERA

METROBRIEFS

PAL worker killed in mishap

A PAL worker was killed yesterday morning after he collided head-on with a car being driven by the alleged mother of a suspected thief.

Chief Insp. Jenny Tacoma, spokesperson of the Southern Police District, identified the victim as Alvin Cruz, 43, a resident of Pateros. Initial investigation showed that the victim was traveling on Quirino Avenue when his motorcycle collided with a Toyota Camry in front of the compound of the Manila Headquarters. Police identified the car driver as Bernard Dy who told investigators he was a nephew of Isidoro Rep. Rajestinos Dy. Bystanders rushed Cruz to Taguig Pateros District Hospital for treatment but succumbed to his injuries. He was declared dead on arrival. Dy remained in the custody of the police who are preparing to charge him with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide.

—Mike Navallo

Melo Fabregas SR

RETIRED Air Force MSgt. Melo S. Fabregas passed away on Sept. 28 at the age of 58. He is survived by his wife, Carmelita Caligtot Fabregas, and daughter Nicole Gabriella Fabregas. His remains now lie at St. Theresa Shrine in Villamor Airbase, Pasay City. The interment will be on Oct. 5 at Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

NGO sponsors winning Tando football team

PUTBOL. Center for Peacebuilders, the team from Tando High School which won the Football for Good Challenge held last month, will compete in the second phase of the tournament on Oct. 9. The Football for Good Challenge, a sports tournament for the less fortunate and street children, was organized by The Identity K Manila Foundation and featured more than 40 teams, including Father Diff Center for Peacebuilder Inc. is a nongovernment organization that advocates ways and solutions for children with special needs and their families. To know more about its activities and how to help, call Tina at 09081 30 and 410 0340 or visit http://www.peacebuildercenter.org

OCTOBER 2

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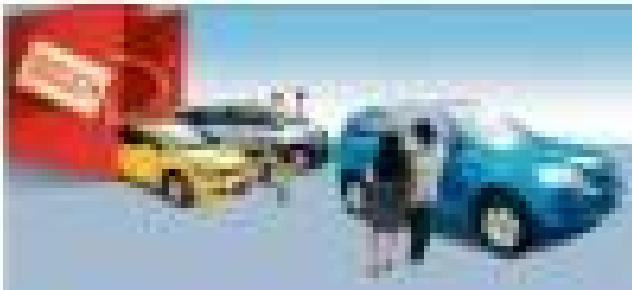

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Newly found planet may be able to nurture life

IT MIGHT be a place that only a lichen or pond scum could love, but astronomers on Wednesday said that they had found a very distant planet capable of harboring water on its surface. That potentially makes it a home for plant or animal life.

Nobody from Earth will be visiting anytime soon. The planet, which goes by the bumpy name of Gliese 581g, is orbiting a star about 20 light years away in the constellation Libra.

But if the finding is confirmed by other astronomers, the planet, which has about three or four times more mass than Earth, would be the most Earthlike planet yet discovered and the first to meet the criteria for being potentially habitable.

"We have a long haul," said Dr. Steven S. Vogt of the University of California, Santa Cruz, who, along with Dr. R. Paul Butler of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, led the team that made the discovery. "This is the first exoplanet I would be the right candidate for water to exist on its surface."

In a recent report for the National Academy of Science, astronomers declared the finding of such planets one of the major goals of the decade. NASA's Kepler satellite—which was launched in March 2009 as a way to detect Earthlike bodies—is expected to harvest dozens or hundreds.

Gliese 581g (whose first name is pronounced GUH-ze) circles a dim red star known as Gliese 581, once every 37 days, at a distance of about 14 million miles. That is smack in the middle of the so-called Goldilocks zone, where the heat from the star is neither too cold nor too hot for water to exist in liquid form on its surface.

Thanks to really the first Goldilocks planet," Butler said.

Other astronomers hailed the news as another harbinger that the search for "living planets," as Jitendar D. Saanders of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics calls them, is on the right track.

"I'm getting goosebumps," said Caleb Scharf of Columbia University.

But they expressed caution about this particular planet, arguing uncertainties about its density, composition and atmosphere, and the need for another generation of giant telescopes and spacecraft in order to find out anything more about it. Other Goldilocks planets have come and gone in recent years.

The discovery was announced at a news conference on Wednesday in Washington, and the findings have been posted on the National Science Foundation's website and will be published in The Astrophysical Journal.

The authors said the relative ease by which planet was found—in only 11 years—led them to believe that such planets must be common.

"Either we have just been incredibly lucky in this early detection, or we are truly on the threshold of a second Age of Discovery," they wrote in their paper.

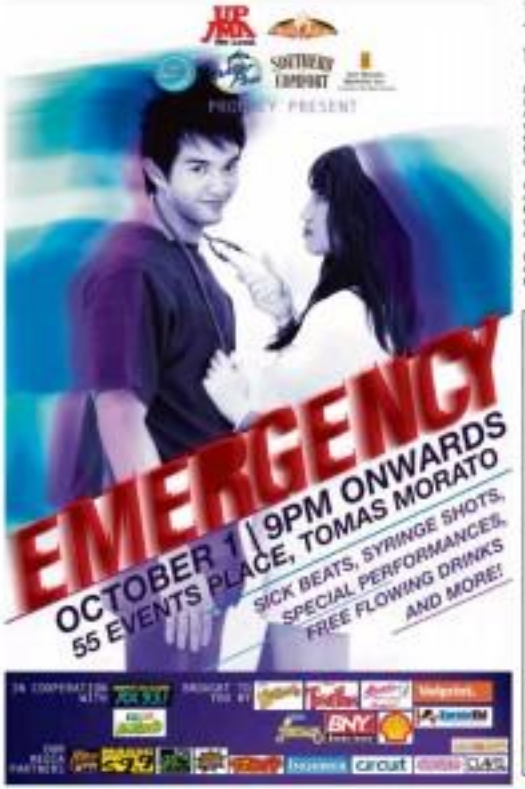
Pressed during the news conference about the possibility of life on Gliese 581g, Vogt protested that he was an astronomer, not a biologist. Then he relented, saying that, speaking strictly personally, he believed that "the chances of life on this planet are almost 100 percent."

Asked the same question, Butler squirmed and said, "I like to say." After a pause he added: "And when the dust has settled and the planet is the right distance from the star to have water and the right mass to hold an atmosphere. What is revealed simply to find lots and lots of these things is lots and lots of extraterrestrial life."

The latest results from Gliese 581 were harvested from observations by two ultra-competing teams, using telescopes in Chile and Hawaii to measure the slight gravitational tugs the star gets as its planets swing by.

This is hardly the first time around the block for Gliese 581, which is a longtime favorite of planet hunters and now is known to have six planets in the vicinity. It is a dwarf star about one-third the mass of the sun and only about one-hundredth as bright, allowing planets to huddle closer to the campfire.

"It hearteningly reminds us of our own solar system," Butler said. NYT



N. Korea's leader-in-waiting takes over senior party posts

SEOUL—The youngest son of ailing leader Kim Jong-Il has taken new powerful posts in South Korea's ruling party, state media said on Wednesday, confirming his status as heir apparent to the nuclear-armed nation.

Kim Jong-Un was named one of two vice-chairs of the central military commission of the Workers' Party of Korea and a member of its central committee, a day after his father appointed him a four-star general.

"Now the crown prince has all he needs to become the next leader," said Choi Cheol-Soo, senior analyst with South Korea Institute for National Unification.

Jong-Un's high position on the military commission cleared by his father gives him considerable authority over one of the world's largest armed forces, numbering almost 1.2 million.

The speed of his ascent may indicate the 68-year-old leader's health is worse than believed, some analysts said.

Kim Jong-Il, who took over from his own father and national founder Kim Il-sung, suffered a stroke in 2008 and is also thought to have kidney problems.

The Swiss-educated son, believed aged about 27, had never been named in state media before this week. No adult photograph has been seen outside the secretive communist nation.

But son and father appeared at a photo session with other newly promoted party officials at the palace of the Kumsusan Memorial Palace in the capital Pyongyang, the North's official Korean Central News Agency reported.

The United States is "watching and looking for details on the next just above like everyone else," Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell, adding he would visit Japan and South Korea next week to discuss the changes.

The two-day session were announced after a one-day conference on Tuesday of the communist party, its highest level gathering for 30 years.

The meeting also appointed the leader's sister Kim Kyong-Hui as a member of the party political bureau. AFP

KIM JONG-UN

An overwhelming and amazing education experience in Singapore

SM CITY SAN PABLO OPENS TODAY

Laguna residents will experience SM's shopping, leisure, and entertainment experience so much closer to home when SM City San Pablo, SM Prime Holdings' 56th mall, opens its doors to the public on October 1, 2010.

Strategically located on a 69,000 square meter property along Maharlika Highway, the mall will serve customers in San Pablo, nearby towns in Laguna, as well as travelers to and from Quezon, Batangas, and Batangas.

Known as the country's only city with seven lakes, San Pablo is not only scenic, aptly beautiful, but also positioned for growth with excellent telecommunication, power infrastructures, abundant skilled manpower, and tourism destinations with a wonderful balance between industrialization and nature. With the opening of SM City San Pablo, residents

Shaking hands with the ribbon-cutting ceremony during the blessing of SM City San Pablo (From L-R): SM Prime Holdings President Ms. Hans Ty, Laguna 3rd District Congressman Ryan Arago-Dayrit, Laguna Vice-Governor Conner Perez, San Pablo Bishop Leo Drona, and officiated by San Pablo Mayor Vic Amante and SM Supermalls President Ms. Hesbert Sy

The SM Supermalls 56th mall, SM City San Pablo is organically located on a 69,000 square meter property along Maharlika Highway which was designed with two phases of construction. This first will include major anchors like the SM Department Store and SM Supermarket, SM specialties like the SM Appliance Center, Watsons, and ACE Hardware, a Food Court with an alfresco dining deck, and exciting shops and restaurants. SM City San Pablo has also added 600 parking spaces for customer convenience.

SM City San Pablo's 4storey mall has perforated ceiling with geometric impression

SM City San Pablo, SM Prime Holdings' second mall in Laguna, has two levels also 40,000 square meters of great shopping space. It has many designers with two phases of construction. The first will include major anchors like the SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, SM specialties like the SM Appliance Center, Watsons, and ACE Hardware, a Food Court with an alfresco dining deck, and exciting shops and restaurants. SM City San Pablo has also added 600 parking spaces for customer convenience.

SM City San Pablo's design team is led by Architect Jose Ong and Associates, Architects, DR Abacid and Associates, Project Manager, and DOT Konstruct, General Contractor.

The Pavilion's of SM City San Pablo is located at the Phase 1 of the mall with 4Storey dining deck

The WORLD

Editor Lamberto B. Glocoo

Vatican bank probed for money laundering

ROME—When Rome magistrates opened an investigation last week into the Vatican bank over transparency issues, it was not only a bold assertion of state over church, it also pointed to one of the Vatican's greatest continuing challenges: facing modernity.

As in the sexual abuse scandal, in which for years the Vatican appeared to shelter itself rather—or above—civil law, this time the issue is the Vatican's institute for the works of religion, better known as the Vatican bank, which has been tightened European Union anti-money-laundering norms.

While Europe remade itself after World War II, balancing its powers through treaties and linking itself together through banking agreements, the Vatican remains an anomaly as the last absolute monarchy in the West. But subtly, in ancient ways are running up against civil institutions that increasingly view the church as they do any other multinational.

"The Vatican has to understand that the world has changed," said Bonaventura Maccimbarra, the head of the investor department at Bocconi University in Milan and an expert in regulations on money laundering. "If it doesn't understand that the world has changed, it risks having violations every day against the anti-money laundering norms."

The investigation is a test not only for the Vatican but also for Italy itself, between its European Union commitments and the Catholic banking networks that its ruling class has long dominated.

In a telling example of the ethics of deference, news of the most important church-state clash in Italy in decades was buried, not surprisingly, by Italian 24 Ore, the country's leading financial daily—not on Page 1, but on Page 18, next to a flattering article about the pope's recent visit to Britain.

Two money transfers

The case began on Sept. 20, when three employees' parents—lowly-salaried $30 million from the Vatican bank and placed in their Banca Del Fucino, and its director general, Paolo Cipriani, under investigation for failure to disclose adequate information about two money transfers the bank cited earlier this month, from an account it held in a Rome branch of Credito Artigiano S.p.A. to two other accounts it held.

The Vatican has said that the investigation is a result of a "misunderstanding," while Gotti Tedeschi has essentially called the matter a reporting error inflated to make headlines. But others believe it is potentially the tip of the iceberg—and the end of an era in which the Vatican could operate with impunity.

Last year, magistrates began investigating all accounts held by the Vatican bank in Italian banks, acting on alerts from the Bank of Italy—which for the first time declared that the Vatican bank should be treated like any other bank outside the Europe Union and be subject to higher reporting standards under a 2007 European Union treaty on money laundering directives.

The magistrates were also emboldened by a 2003 ruling by Italy's highest court that paved the way for Vatican officials to be tried on charges that Vatican finance minister had battled recently by residents with electromagnetic waves. The landmark ruling said that although the Holy See was a sovereign state, the Italian state must be able to protect its citizens from actions carried out by individuals who work for the Vatican, that unlike to the United States, the high court ruling does not set precedent, and if a judge presses charges in the Vatican bank case, a long legal battle is expected.

One mystery in the new case is why the Vatican bank, formally known as the Office for Religious Works, would have asked Credito Artigiano to wire $30 million from an account that Cipriani had in fact already frozen in April for officials' failure to disclose required information in earlier attempted transfers.

Some interpreted it as a test of the Vatican's old ways.

"It's clear that it was a dangerous move," said Ignazio Ingrao, a Vatican expert at the Italian newsweekly Panorama, who first broke the story of investigations into the Vatican bank last December. "They wanted to have their hand, hoping that Credito Artigiano would have helped them."

But Credito Artigiano appeared to have little choice in reporting the suspect transfer to the Bank of Italy, which earlier this month sent its second inspection this year advising all Italian banks to treat the Vatican bank with greater scrutiny—or potentially face charges.

Another mystery

But another mystery is what happened between Sept. 6, when the Vatican bank made the transfer request, and Sept. 14, when Credito Artigiano alerted the Bank of Italy that the information was missing.

Here, some see signs of a possible power struggle between Gotti Tedeschi and Giovanni De Censi, the director of Credito Artigiano's parent company Credito Bergamasco—who also happens to sit on the Vatican bank's board of advisers.

A spokesperson for Credito Bergamasco said De Censi had no comment.

The investigation comes at a time when the Vatican is under increased pressure by civil authorities in the continuing sex abuse scandal, especially in Belgium, where the authorities staged high-profile raids of church property over the summer.

But it also comes as a complex international structure for Italian banks, in which new power players connected to the right-to Northern League political party are fighting for some of a cattle traditionally held by the Catholic banking establishment...a dynamic widely seen as a factor in the recent lurid attack of Monsignor Profiteo as chair of UniCredit, Italy's biggest bank. For its part, the Vatican has said that it brought on Ernst Yolcott, a banker and professor of the ethics of finance at Catholic University in Milan, last year to help reorganize and institutionalize its finances, which are managed by disparate entities that do not always communicate.

The Vatican has also been in talks with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which sets transparency standards, and the Financial Action Task Force, which imposes measures against money laundering and terrorist financing, to see how it might join the so-called white list of countries with good records on transparency. WFT

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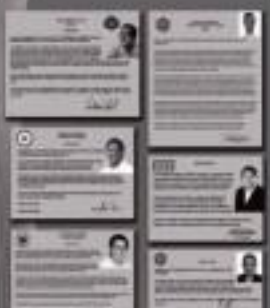

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The PLDT-SMART Foundation Gabay Guro Turns Teachers to Celebrities on World Teachers' Day

On Oct 5, teachers all over the world take center stage as we celebrate the World Teachers' Day. In the Philippines, PLDT-SMART FOUNDATION's Gabay Guro (2G) pays tribute to teachers all year round via scholarships and training sessions, installation of computers with myDSL connections in schools, livelihood and housing. 2G kicked off teachers month celebrations with a nationwide training series dubbed, "Teacher's Treasure Chest" running in parallel with the English proficiency training program.

Thousands of teachers from all over the country have enjoyed the various training programs given for free.This year's celebration will be much bigger with the able support of its partners. Top rating TV shows like Eat Bulaga and Talentadong Pinoy give honor to our dear teachers. On October 3, the country's top celebrities will perform before hundreds of teachers in the first tribute concert, Live and Loud. Truly, teachers are made celebrities by PLDT's Gabay Guro program.

NATIONWIDE TRAINING SERIES

Teacher's Treasure Chest:
Golden Lessons for Effective Teaching Training Program

Sept. 4 Manila • Sept.17 Davao • Sept. 20 Cebu • Sept. 25 Cavite

PLDT's training guru Alexander "Deng" Kibanoff, shared his expertise with a seminar on the key principles of good teaching in Manila, Davao and Cebu. He will also be giving the same talk in Cavite on September 29.

Teachers are all smiles during the Teacher's Treasure Chest Program in Davao.

Teachers from Cebu together with Mr Kibanoff and Gabay Guro officers headed by Ms. Chaye Cabal.

TRIBUTE CONCERT FOR TEACHERS

Live and Loud at SM Music Hall

October 3, 4-8PM **Admission is free!**

More and more celebrities are supporting Gabay Guro. Catch Rhian Ramos as she celebrates her birthday. Also featuring Jay Durias, True Faith, The EB Babes, Vernie Varga and other surprise guests.

To learn more about Gabay Guro's activities and exclusive offers for teachers, log on to www.gabayguro.com.

For Teachers' Month, Tribute card holders can avail of discounted myDSL plans and enjoy freebies and discounts from Sisters, City Best Seafood Restaurant, Compbink, PC Gilmore, Forever Flawless, SM Department Store, and more.

Editor Teddyboy B. Molavidores
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

SPORTS

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Hot Eagles pull off 'three-peat'

Buenafe stars as Ateneo sweeps FEU with emphatic Game 2 win

By Jasmine W. Payo

A PERFECT ENDING to an imperfect start to the season.

Despite treading a less dominant path in the championship this year, Ateneo romped to a historic third straight conservation sweeping the historic University, 65-62, in Game 2 of the 73rd UAAP men's basketball Finals yesterday at the jampacked Araneta Coliseum.

Rabeh Buenafe carried the Blue Eagles on his shoulders in the last seven minutes against an FEU squad that came out fighting the time, despite the absence of coach Glenn Capacio in the wake second half due to health reasons.

"Definitely this is the most difficult championship we've won in the last three years," said interim coach Norman Black. "There were doubters and there were critics, but luckily for us, my players have big hearts."

Buenafe—crowned for most of the season for his extra pounds he gained that year—shattered a 54-all tie by drilling 10 straight points, capped by a triple that gave the Eagles a 64-59 advantage with 22.1 seconds left.

"Those nine shooting free percentage from three-point land," said Black. "I didn't stop him, but I didn't encourage it either. He had a lot of confidence that he can take that shot."

The Tamaraws, the top seeds who were unpleasingly blown away in Game 1, 72-49, early, set hard a chance to tie the game after veteran wingcaptain Paul Sanga drew a foul from Ateneo's Frank Golla as the three-point area with 43.6 seconds left.

But with the Eagles leading at 61-58, Sanga nailed only one of three free throws, before Buenafe buried the dagger very in front of a star-studded crowd of 27,233.

Buenafe, a junior forward who also won a three-peat with the late Sebastian Slaughter in the NCAA, wound up with a personal season-best 23 points and six rebounds to capture the Finals Most Valuable Player award. (See story on A2)

Capacio's blood pressure shot up late in the second period and his assistants had to take over for the rest of the game.

"In the last few minutes of the second quarter, when he complained to the referee, he suddenly felt dizzy," FEU athletic director Mark Molina said of Capacio, who was rushed to Medical City in Pasig.

"It fulfillme at the degree, he already told his assistants to talk to the team. He said he'll try to recover, but his blood pressure was too high. It was his decision to remain in the dugout in the second half."

The Eagles held numerous to the first three quarters, before finishing with just a total of four.

It was the Blue Eagles' first three-peat and also sixth overall title since joining the league in 1978.

"I don't want to insult my former players, but this is by far the most gratifying championship one've had here in Ateneo," said Black of his Eagles, who had once elimination losses this year than the last two seasons combined.

"It's the biggest stages, our team really came together and our team pulled it off," said Ateneo guard Eric Lang, who starred in the Eagles' surprise whipping of the Tamaraws in Game 1 last Saturday.

The Tamaraws, though, came out with a fiery start this time, opening with a 12-4 run and building the lead to 22-13 by the end of the first quarter.

Ernesto Meeker added 10 points and three assists, while Rico Salva added nine rebounds.

Kat Ilas Adamson supplied HEDY, gritty stand to back-to-a 56-54 Game 2 triumph and capture its second straight championship.

Anna Hurada drilled 21 points, including was-bulley free throws with 24.7 seconds left that lifted the Lady Bilcons, 56-52, after Raven Colomma's triple pushed the Lady Tamaraws within a basket, 54-52.

Ambry Almanzor, the season and Finals MVP capped her stint with the Lady Falcons with 16 points, 14 rebounds and three steals. She averaged 13.5 points, 12 boards and 2.5 steals to end the Lady Falcons' seven-peat of the top seed of Lady Tamaraws.

FEU's Terrence Romeo, who fired 43 points to one game as a Baby Tam last year, also bagged the rookie of the Year plum.

The 5-foot-10 Garcia was also named to the Mythical Team along with teammates Aldrich Ramos (7.1/5 points, 5.3 rebounds, 2.1 blocks), Nathaniel (7's Emmanuel Mbe (12.4 points, 11.7 boards, 1.2 blocks) and the University of the East duo of Paul Lee (11.6 rounders, 6.7 boards, 4.6 assists, 2.0 steals) and Jiro Rellon (12.6 points, third rebounds 9.8, 1.4 blocks).

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RP golfers now 6 shots behind Thais in Putra Cup

By Mayang S. Castillo

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The Thais, who gained 32 strokes on the Filipinos in the last two days, have a 54-hole 648 total after Anchai Jaidee shot a 6-under 66, Itaphinan Onsiri added a 70 and Nitithi Sriprasertsuwan contributed a 73.

The Philippines initially lagged behind by as many as 12, until the 16-year-old Tabuena, playing in a regular men's event for the country for the first time, birdied five of his last seven holes for a 69.

Jamel Alaska carded a 73 and Mark Fernandez gained one at 74, as Jonny Bullecer did not count for the second straight round after blowing a one-under card on the front nine to finish with a 77.

However, non-playing Philippine captain Tommy Manotoc said his boys are due for an explosive round of their own.

"It is not impossible," Manotoc said in an interview call to the host.

"We can still do it but we need low rounds from the boys, and after what has happened in the last two rounds, I think they're due for one."

Silverstone noted that his guarantee of the R750-backed Philippines' "definitely finishing better than third place" has been achieved, with Singapore faltering and Malaysia now well behind the field.

"We have improved on our third place finishes in the last two years, but our objective goal is to win it all," the many-time SEAGames ace added.

Indonesia received Singapore to third spot with a 217 for 671 after the Singaporeans, the 2008 champions, could do no better than a 229 for 672. Malaysia fired 221 for the day for fifth at 681.

The Philippines, meanwhile, provisionally ended the Asia City Cup after Alfredo Carlos fired a 78, Clyde Mondilla a 72 and Andrea Subbara 73 for a day-best 213 that gave the under-18 Filipino boys a 39-stroke lead heading into the final round.

The veterans's team also remained in the hunt for Cup host as Andre Uriarte fired a 73 and Dennis Santos and Irma Caballero shot a 74 and 76, respectively.

Chihiro Ikeda also had a 76 but her score did not count after Gabasa Ayaduri is ousted.

The Filipinas stood just four strokes behind Thailand, which had a 666 total following a 211 from the 73-to-0 Wanthi Lueboonmung and Napaporn Kaewpaiboon and a 73 from Pimrida Yok-nan.

Pacquiao jars sparring foe

Manny's basketball worries fans

By Ronnie Nathaniel

HE SEEMED especially still needs some fine-tuning, but general-for-general' blog Manny Pacquiao was already fired his spurs and stuck to those hoodies during his first sparring session at his training camp in Baguio City yesterday.

Pacquiao recorded a left straight that landed squarely on the jaw of Glen Tapia midway in the second round, jarring the promising light middleweight.

"It [sparring] was beautiful," assistant trainer Buboy Fernandez said the minutes after the session. "I felt that Glen's timing was a little bit off, but Manny's okay. He'll regain them in the morning days as he steps up sparring."

Pacquiao went four rounds with the 20-year-old Tapia, a strong puncher who has a record of 7-1 (with 5 knockouts).

Chief trainer Freddie Roach also drove the guns and cleared it of unknown journeying involving members of the media and even some Team Pacquiao members.

Pacquiao's adviser Michael Jerez school Noel's observations: "It was a good four rounds of sparring."

Jerez had no explanation as to why it was previously announced that Pacquiao would spar with the bigger and far more experienced Mikkel "Mickey Mac" Medina, who has a record of 24-2-1 with 19 knockouts.

Evidently, Tapia was reserved for Pacquiao's second sparring session on Saturday which is scheduled for six rounds.

Pacquiao once again played basketball on Wednesday night and skipped his morning session Thursday.

Jerez said Pacquiao didn't jog yesterday because he played basketball, which is one way he likes to get in shape physically.

Jerez allayed fans' fears that too much basketball could open up the danger of aggravating his foot injury, saying there was no need to worry and that everything was in schedule.

Roach had earlier said that Pacquiao would be allowed to play basketball only up to one month before the Mosquito fight.

PBA's report from Ray Lustre

FINALS MVP Ryan Buenafe shows the oversized replica check for P30,000 he won for nailing the MVP title. AGILE MALABUYOC

'Buenafat' cops MVP plum

By Jeannine M. Faye

CHEERLEADER but still severely talented.

He other local player, perhaps, could match what Ryan Buenafe has achieved after powering the recent Blue Eagles to a historic third straight UAAP championship.

Although overlooked for most of the season for gaining some extra pounds, Buenafe not only topped the Finals Most Valuable Player award yesterday but also clinched his sixth team title in six years.

"I'm just thankful that I was given another three-peat," said Buenafe, who also won three straight titles with the San Sebastian Staglers in the NCAA before joining the Eagles.

Playing his last game of the season, Buenafe knocked in the clutch baskets in the final seven minutes to finish with 22 points, six rebounds, one assist and one steal to lead the Blue Eagles to a 65-62 triumph over the Far Eastern U Tamaraws at the Araneta Coliseum.

"He's a winner," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "He can be Cool up when it's really needed. He's been telling me that all along. He said

[illegible] will be a breakout game for him, he actually predicted it."

Buenafe admitted that he was far from game shape early in the season, but vowed to work hard on his game as the league rolled on.

Several times in the eliminations, Black even admonished Buenafe for his poor defensive game and for his not to remain stretches of the game.

"It's true, I'm not denying it [being overweight]," Buenafe, incensed to "Thanks to," said with a laugh. "I wasn't in condition after we won our championship last year [shirt] train for quite a long time."

Nat'l football head Martinez faces falsification charges

By Cedell P. Tupas

PHILIPPINE Football Federation president Jose Mari Martinez is facing charges for two counts of falsification of public documents for adding the name of a PFF "managing committee" as one of the signatories in the federation's bank accounts without the approval of the board.

The case was filed before the Office of the Prosecutor in Pasig City last Sept. 24 by board members Rafaael Montayre and Dick Bagatsing, heads of the Cebu Football Association and Negros Oriental Football Association, respectively.

Montayre said they were surprised to learn of the existence of two notarized secretary's certificates submitted to banks, where PFF has accounts, that did not have the PFF board's approval.

The first certificate, signed by former secretary general Cyril Dollias, showed that the PFF board, in a meeting at the Legend Hotel in November 2009, had approved to add the signatory of PFF managing consultant Henry Tan in the bank accounts of the federation.

Martinez and PFF treasurer Antonio Marty were originally the only approved signatories of the account.

Montayre said he was present during the meeting and that the move to add the signatory of Tan to the bank accounts was never discussed.

Martinez again submitted another secretary's certificate to the banks in July removing Tan's name as a signatory.

The certificate, signed by PFF general secretary Ramon Manuel, indicated that the board had approved the move in a June 19 meeting. Montayre, however, said no meeting took place on that date.

Montayre claimed that Martinez, by himself, was able to withdraw and distribute funds belonging to the federation without the approval of the board.

The PFF is one of the richest national sports associations, getting a ₱250,000 annual aid from the Federation Internationale de Football (FIFA).

SPORTSWATCH

Llanados, shooters in Scoop

DIVERSE 8 of PBA All-Filipino Cup defending champion Ok Mixy Chicken, three-time coach Tim Cone will be shooting brave will greet today's Scoop Sa Kanayan's weekly session at Kanagan Restaurant on Pasay Road, Manila. The session starts at 11 a.m.

PBA rookie Wynne Parks, Derby Ace's representative in the league's board, coach George Gallent, reigning MVP James Yap and skipper Roger Yap will talk about the Llanados' readiness to defend their title.

Intramuros Pinoy Cup Oct. 9

THE SECOND Intramuros Cup, 42nd hosted by Club Intramuros, invites members of Manila Golf Club, will kick-off on Oct. 9 at the Sixty-par 64 layout.

Tournament proceeds will go to the annual gift-giving to club employees. Interested golfers at P2,000 includes green and caddy fees and a raffle ticket. For inquiries, call Joy Mercado at 241-35-58 or (0922) 803-2887.

Octoberfest derby on at PCC

THE SEASON's sweetest battleships will be battled under today in the Octoberfest day event to Derby Derby starting at 4 p.m. today at the Pasay City Cockpit.

Robert Monsanto and Mr. Cuddle, hoping for their victory in the Premier Sabungero this year, meet in Derby Derby with Mr. Cuddle at P22, barrow the rest of the contenders.

A guaranteed prize of at least P1 million awaits the champion, according to PCC at manager Eric Alba Rosa, who is holding the event in partnership with Team Magnolia.

By TOP CHOICE
Ni Santa Ana Park

Billiards League draws 19 schools

By Ray Lucero

THE QUEST for a new breed of cue artists intensifies when the National Collegiate Billiards League, or B-League, begins on Nov. 20 at the Ocean Park at the Final Park.

Aiming to bring billiards out of smoke-filled halls and into mainstream acceptance, the NCBL will feature players from at least 19 of the country's leading schools, including Ateneo and La Salle.

Formed by billiards enthusiasts and with the support of various firms, the B-League will run up to March next year.

Leading the way for the NCBL are Bill de Leon, one of the pioneer PBA players agents and event organizer, and Perry Martinez, founder of the Billiards Managers and Players Association, who are the league's president and vice president, respectively.

"We've invited schools to participate," said De Leon. "We want to bring kids who are good in billiards but are out of school back to the classroom as athletic scholars. We want to develop more billiards heroes."

Martinez said the B-League has taken the cudgels for the sport en-masse a new generation of billiards stars takes over where the likes of Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante finally call it quits.

"The rising stars of other countries are in their teens," said Martinez, head of Bingo Promotions that manages the likes of former world champion Ronnie Alcano, Dennis Orcollo and Roberto Gomez.

"We need to develop a new breed of stars to keep our dominance in the sport."

Apart from Ateneo and La Salle, also competing are St. Bonifilo, New Era, St. Claire, Centro Escolar U, University of Manila, Bulacan, Letrac, University of Santo Tomas, San Sebastian, University of the East, the Ramon U, Don Bosco Mandaluyong, Tiptopian, Manila, University of the Philippines, Jose Rizal U and Mapua.

After the inaugurals, games will be held every Saturday and Sunday at the Star Billiards Center on Aurora Avenue, Quezon City. Teams can field five players each in the juniors (16 below) and seniors (23 below) divisions to the best of five matches.

KEYED: Pool icon will now pass the torch to younger players.

PBA's Saluds: Like father, like son

INSIDE SPORTS

Alvarez Valenzuela

RP golfers now 6 shots behind Thais in Putra Cup

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Pacquiao went four rounds with the 20-year-old Tapia, a strong puncher who has a record of 7-1 (with 5 knockouts).

Chief trainer Freddie Roach also drove the guns and cleared it of unknown journeying involving members of the media and even some Team Pacquiao members.

Pacquiao's adviser Michael Jerez school Noel's observations: "It was a good four rounds of sparring."

Jerez had no explanation as to why it was previously announced that Pacquiao would spar with the bigger and far more experienced Mikkel "Mickey Mac" Medina, who has a record of 24-2-1 with 19 knockouts.

Evidently, Tapia was reserved for Pacquiao's second sparring session on Saturday which is scheduled for six rounds.

Pacquiao once again played basketball on Wednesday night and skipped his morning session Thursday.

Jerez said Pacquiao didn't jog yesterday because he played basketball, which is one way he likes to get in shape physically.

Jerez allayed fans' fears that too much basketball could open up the danger of aggravating his foot injury, saying there was no need to worry and that everything was in schedule.

Roach had earlier said that Pacquiao would be allowed to play basketball only up to one month before the Mosquito fight.

PBA's report from Ray Lustre

FINALS MVP Ryan Buenafe shows the oversized replica check for P30,000 he won for nailing the MVP title. AGILE MALABUYOC

'Buenafat' cops MVP plum

By Jeannine M. Faye

CHEERLEADER but still severely talented.

He other local player, perhaps, could match what Ryan Buenafe has achieved after powering the recent Blue Eagles to a historic third straight UAAP championship.

Although overlooked for most of the season for gaining some extra pounds, Buenafe not only topped the Finals Most Valuable Player award yesterday but also clinched his sixth team title in six years.

"I'm just thankful that I was given another three-peat," said Buenafe, who also won three straight titles with the San Sebastian Staglers in the NCAA before joining the Eagles.

Playing his last game of the season, Buenafe knocked in the clutch baskets in the final seven minutes to finish with 22 points, six rebounds, one assist and one steal to lead the Blue Eagles to a 65-62 triumph over the Far Eastern U Tamaraws at the Araneta Coliseum.

"He's a winner," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "He can be Cool up when it's really needed. He's been telling me that all along. He said

[illegible] will be a breakout game for him, he actually predicted it."

Buenafe admitted that he was far from game shape early in the season, but vowed to work hard on his game as the league rolled on.

Several times in the eliminations, Black even admonished Buenafe for his poor defensive game and for his not to remain stretches of the game.

"It's true, I'm not denying it [being overweight]," Buenafe, incensed to "Thanks to," said with a laugh. "I wasn't in condition after we won our championship last year [shirt] train for quite a long time."

Nat'l football head Martinez faces falsification charges

By Cedell P. Tupas

PHILIPPINE Football Federation president Jose Mari Martinez is facing charges for two counts of falsification of public documents for adding the name of a PFF "managing committee" as one of the signatories in the federation's bank accounts without the approval of the board.

The case was filed before the Office of the Prosecutor in Pasig City last Sept. 24 by board members Rafaael Montayre and Dick Bagatsing, heads of the Cebu Football Association and Negros Oriental Football Association, respectively.

Montayre said they were surprised to learn of the existence of two notarized secretary's certificates submitted to banks, where PFF has accounts, that did not have the PFF board's approval.

The first certificate, signed by former secretary general Cyril Dollias, showed that the PFF board, in a meeting at the Legend Hotel in November 2009, had approved to add the signatory of PFF managing consultant Henry Tan in the bank accounts of the federation.

Martinez and PFF treasurer Antonio Marty were originally the only approved signatories of the account.

Montayre said he was present during the meeting and that the move to add the signatory of Tan to the bank accounts was never discussed.

Martinez again submitted another secretary's certificate to the banks in July removing Tan's name as a signatory.

The certificate, signed by PFF general secretary Ramon Manuel, indicated that the board had approved the move in a June 19 meeting. Montayre, however, said no meeting took place on that date.

Montayre claimed that Martinez, by himself, was able to withdraw and distribute funds belonging to the federation without the approval of the board.

The PFF is one of the richest national sports associations, getting a ₱250,000 annual aid from the Federation Internationale de Football (FIFA).

SPORTSWATCH

Llanados, shooters in Scoop

DIVERSE 8 of PBA All-Filipino Cup defending champion Ok Mixy Chicken, three-time coach Tim Cone will be shooting brave will greet today's Scoop Sa Kanayan's weekly session at Kanagan Restaurant on Pasay Road, Manila. The session starts at 11 a.m.

PBA rookie Wynne Parks, Derby Ace's representative in the league's board, coach George Gallent, reigning MVP James Yap and skipper Roger Yap will talk about the Llanados' readiness to defend their title.

Intramuros Pinoy Cup Oct. 9

THE SECOND Intramuros Cup, 42nd hosted by Club Intramuros, invites members of Manila Golf Club, will kick-off on Oct. 9 at the Sixty-par 64 layout.

Tournament proceeds will go to the annual gift-giving to club employees. Interested golfers at P2,000 includes green and caddy fees and a raffle ticket. For inquiries, call Joy Mercado at 241-35-58 or (0922) 803-2887.

Octoberfest derby on at PCC

THE SEASON's sweetest battleships will be battled under today in the Octoberfest day event to Derby Derby starting at 4 p.m. today at the Pasay City Cockpit.

Robert Monsanto and Mr. Cuddle, hoping for their victory in the Premier Sabungero this year, meet in Derby Derby with Mr. Cuddle at P22, barrow the rest of the contenders.

A guaranteed prize of at least P1 million awaits the champion, according to PCC at manager Eric Alba Rosa, who is holding the event in partnership with Team Magnolia.

By TOP CHOICE
Ni Santa Ana Park

Billiards League draws 19 schools

By Ray Lucero

THE QUEST for a new breed of cue artists intensifies when the National Collegiate Billiards League, or B-League, begins on Nov. 20 at the Ocean Park at the Final Park.

Aiming to bring billiards out of smoke-filled halls and into mainstream acceptance, the NCBL will feature players from at least 19 of the country's leading schools, including Ateneo and La Salle.

Formed by billiards enthusiasts and with the support of various firms, the B-League will run up to March next year.

Leading the way for the NCBL are Bill de Leon, one of the pioneer PBA players agents and event organizer, and Perry Martinez, founder of the Billiards Managers and Players Association, who are the league's president and vice president, respectively.

"We've invited schools to participate," said De Leon. "We want to bring kids who are good in billiards but are out of school back to the classroom as athletic scholars. We want to develop more billiards heroes."

Martinez said the B-League has taken the cudgels for the sport en-masse a new generation of billiards stars takes over where the likes of Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante finally call it quits.

"The rising stars of other countries are in their teens," said Martinez, head of Bingo Promotions that manages the likes of former world champion Ronnie Alcano, Dennis Orcollo and Roberto Gomez.

"We need to develop a new breed of stars to keep our dominance in the sport."

Apart from Ateneo and La Salle, also competing are St. Bonifilo, New Era, St. Claire, Centro Escolar U, University of Manila, Bulacan, Letrac, University of Santo Tomas, San Sebastian, University of the East, the Ramon U, Don Bosco Mandaluyong, Tiptopian, Manila, University of the Philippines, Jose Rizal U and Mapua.

After the inaugurals, games will be held every Saturday and Sunday at the Star Billiards Center on Aurora Avenue, Quezon City. Teams can field five players each in the juniors (16 below) and seniors (23 below) divisions to the best of five matches.

KEYED: Pool icon will now pass the torch to younger players.

PBA's Saluds: Like father, like son

INSIDE SPORTS

Alvarez Valenzuela

Westwood fit, No. 1 ranking within reach

NEWPORT, WALES—Lee Westwood says he has no concerns about his calf injury on the eve of the Ryder Cup, his first competitive in nearly two months.

Westwood, on the verge of becoming the world No. 1 for the first time in his career, last played as the third-ranked Open champion in early August. He says when he began putting weight on his calf during practice, he had no reason to believe he would be ready to go at Celtic Manor.

WESTWOOD

The only question is how many matches he will play.

Westwood says he wouldn't be at the Ryder Cup if he didn't think he could play all five sessions.

Westwood will have a chance to replace Tiger Woods atop the ranking at the Alfred Dunhill Championship next week in Scotland, with St. Andrews the host course. Westwood finished second to the Scottish Open in July he also is supposed to play the Portugal Masters the following week.

If he were to finish in the top 20 at both events, that should be enough to crush No. 1 for the first time in his career.

Woods has been No. 1 for the last 277 weeks, dating to the week before the 2005 US Open at Pinehurst No. 2. He has not won a tournament since the Australian Masters in November, shortly before a car accident outside his Florida home led to revelations of multiple extramarital affairs.

For most of the year, Phil Mickelson seemed the most likely candidate to replace Woods. The Masters champion has had 12 tournaments where he could have gone to No. 1 for the first time.

But in his last seven tournaments since the US Open, Mickelson has finished in the top 10 only twice. AP

IF IS still unclear whether Spain's Alberto Contador, shown in this file photo during the 2010 Tour de France, will keep his crown.

Tour winner fails dope test

Contador: It's spoiled meat

PARIS—Three-time Tour de France champion Alberto Contador of Spain tested positive for a banned drug while winning this year's race and has been suspended by cycling's governing body, dealing a crushing blow to the sport in its efforts to shake off its doping-soiled past.

Contador said he ingested the banned substance he admits he tested positive, clenbuterol, in meat that he had brought from Spain the day before the restest.

A World Anti-Doping Agency-accredited lab in Cologne, Germany, found a "very small concentration" of the muscle-building and fat-burning drug clenbuterol in Contador's urine sample on July 21 at the Tour, according to a statement from the UCI.

But the statement was "400 times[6] less than what the antidoping laboratories accredited by WADA must be able to detect," the cycling organization said.

Both Contador's A and B samples tested positive and the cyclist has been "formally and provisionally suspended," the UCI said.

With seven-time Tour champion Lance Armstrong now back in retirement, Contador is cycling's biggest star, so it could be devastating for the sport if the Spanish cyclist is proved to have cheated.

Storing treasured millions of dollars in recent years in what is widely regarded as one of the most stringent anti-doping regimes anywhere, cycling authorities hoped to be turning the corner on widespread doping by riders that had long been a mockery of the sport and repeatedly rallied the Tour, its showpiece race.

Although just 27, Contador is already the greatest rider of his generation. His victories at the Tour—starting in 2007 and at only or major races—are seen as a possible break from cycling's dirty past.

The UCI's statement gave no indication of whether Contador will be stripped of his latest Tour title or be banned. AP

MERCADO

Mercado impresses Smart Gilas 5 coach

By Jane Navarro

COACH ERIC Townson knew he made a valuable decision tapping Sol Mercado at the end of the Smart Gilas Pilipinas five-workout Wednesday night.

"I'm satisfied with his first practice," said Townson of the 6-foot-1 Rain Or Shine playmaker. "With what he had shown, I think he will fit into the team."

Mercado impressed Townson with a total crossover that could throw off any guard and an accurate step-back three-pointer on either foot.

But Townson liked most the shifty guard's ability to defend and stay with his man despite a rash of swollen pides and soreness.

"Individually, he has the skills that I need from a guard. He's quick, aggressive, good shooting and most importantly, he can really defend," said Townson.

Townson said the 6-foot-9 Taulava and Kelly Williams missed the practice due to illness.

He said Taulava called in sick while Williams attended the PBA Press Corps Awards Night where the 6-foot-7 power forward was named Comeback Player of the Year.

Both players promised to show up Monday next week.

Mercado, Taulava and Williams were booted by the PBA and their respective teams to beef up the national team in the Guangzhou Asian Games on Nov. 12 to 27.

POC submits names of 249 Asiad athletes to Guangzhou

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee has submitted the names of 249 athletes who will represent the country in the Guangzhou Asian Games in China this November.

The list sent to the Asiad organizers last Wednesday included 48 fewer than the two dragon boat teams and 32 from the women's basketball squad that have yet to justify their inclusion in separate competitions.

The paddlers will undergo trials at the Lu Meng Dam on Oct. 8, while the RP rugby team has to take the gold medal in the Southeast Asian Games to participate slated in the country Oct. 24 to 29.

After dragon boat, the next biggest group is women's volleyball with 15, followed by billiards (14), aquatics (13), men's basketball (12), taekwondo (12), bowling (11), dancesport (11), chess (12), and soft tennis (12).

Officials have projected an improvement from the gold-silver-bronze medal performance of 4-6-9 which the 233-athlete RP squad produced in Doha, Qatar four years ago.

Among the strong gold medal prospects are the billiards bets led by Efren "Bata" Reyes, bowler Biboy Rivera, Wesley Ito of chess, Taiwanese trio of taekwondo, boxers Charly Suarez and Jerrie Elorde and shooters Joel Bonamigo and Jethro Dionisio.

SO PADILLA GO ANDMA

Alaska: 25 years of doing it their way

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Jun Sarmenta

THE ALASKA faces celebrates 25 years this week and undoubtedly, it's a PBA team with a colorful history marked by several championships and a grand slam in 1996.

Its popularity may not be as widespread as Barangay Ginebra, San Miguel, or Purefoods but Alaska is a favorite of many who like their basketball efficient and methodical.

There is a way of doing things in Alaska and it's not just anchored on coach Tim Cone's country of the straight offense.

* * *

Alaska honors the value of the PBA not only as a marketing vehicle but as an integral part of the sports entertainment landscape.

There have been times when team owner Wilfred Steven Uytengsu and Cone have been vocal about PBA politics and they've had their share of conversations with the league commissioner when interest is to maintain a steady ship.

But there's no question about their passion for the PBA, and to tough and good times, they've had a team playing in the league.

I've seen this team from Day One in 1986, when the late Tony Vaccaro was its coach.

It was also my first year on the PBA radio panel. Dare, I tried to play against Tony in the advertising basketball league, when he was the main man of Philippine Advertising Counselors.

I hit two jump shots in the first half and then he was all over me, blocking most of what I put up thereafter. A little research later revealed he was a college star player and it showed in the way he played.

* * *

For a while, I gained deeper insight into the team talking with Wilfred Uytengsu at a gym before the Alaska offices in Makati. All the talk happened in between the reps the young Uytengsu did with the weights.

A passionate fitness advocate, being a former amateur, he lifted religiously and you couldn't help but marvel at his stamina. To this day he shows the same dedication in the multibillion he's involved in.

Cone's home is Alaska and it's hard to imagine any other coach handling this team. He began as a defensive consultant after battling in a bit of TV analyzing for Hotshot.

He "wowed" with basketball knowledge, but what was intriguing is that he deftly put all that into a Philippine context.

Cone has admitted many times being a Toyota fan and a disciple of Baby Dalupan's deft coaching. He had grown up following the PBA.

* * *

It was this same passion with which Uytengsu and Cone have run the Alaska basketball team, and they have been through a lot in the past.

Add to the mix the not-of-ever youthful team manager Amapol Tiñio who knows his hoops, being a former La Salle Green Archer, coach and TV analyst.

Coach and player changes and departures were never easy moments but the team stuck to what it believed in.

It has survived many trials and being around for 25 years is a superb accomplishment given that many others have not lasted that long in the league.

Aunzo heavy favorite in ICTSI N'woods leg

By Mussing R. Castillo

MEXICO ITS usual sizzle, Freddie Aunzo is the prohibitive favorite to retain his ICTSI-Royal Northwoods championship starting Wednesday as the rolling legend in San Rafael resumes his campaign.

The former RP commerce ace will try to become just the second man behind Jarie Pogoy to repeat against a somewhat weakened field eager to pounce on the absence of the big guns.

Pogoy, the runaway leader in the Order of Merit race, begins Que and Artemio Murakami will all skip the event because of prior commitment overseas. But that doesn't lessen the doubt that Aunzo's Northwoods leg would be a cakewalk for anyone, with reigning Philippine Open champion Henri Salcedo, who has not won in a while, Mars Pucay, Renato Magsalay, Antonio Lascuña still entered.

AUNZO

"It will be tough since the field remains strong," Aunzo.

Pucay 2 behind with 72

INDIA—Mars Pucay matched par 72 on a day of tough scoring and battled leader Steve Karimi of South Africa by two strokes after the opening round of the Mercedes Benz Masters on Thursday.

The Guimaras fireman, who won his maiden Asian Tour title in Singapore earlier this month, was one of four players to break par with a one-under par 71 at the Tiruvattiyur Golf and Country Club.

Pucay, Ambassador of Thailand, Malaysia's Iain Steel and Chinese Taipei's Chen Tung-he battled to a 71 at the $500,000 Asian Tour event where rain and strong wind made his difficult for players.

Angelo Que was the next best Filipino player with a 73.

Fellow-pros Aurora ranked a 74, Jovic Pagsanjan, Artemio Murakami and Antonio Lascuña had 75s while Gerald Rosales struggled with a 76. Aaron Swarnkar

Fiba U-18 championship: Taiwanese oust Filipinos

CHANGE (SEPT) outplayed the Philippines in the final half and survived into the semifinals of the Fiba Asia Under-18 championship with an 81-69 victory Wednesday at the May gym in Jiangsu, Yiwuwu.

The Taiwanese outscored the Filipinos in the third quarter, 17-6, for a 55-49 lead, then sustained their momentum to open an insurmountable 69-52 advantage with five minutes left in the lucrative quarterfinal duel.

The Taiwanese also grabbed more rebounds, 48-33.

Chinese Taipei will face the host China in the semifinals on Friday.

The Filipinos will now try to salvage fifth place in the consolation pool with a victory over Japan Thursday and another win over the survivor of the Lebanon-Samoa clash on Friday.

Bonnie Anthonnette

SPORTS

RP falls anew; So draws Topalov

KHANTY-MANSIYSK, Russia—Grandmaster Wesley So held former world champion Veselin Topalov to a draw, but the Philippines yielded a 1.5-2.5 decision to highly rated Bulgaria in the eighth round of the 39th Chess Olympiad Wednesday.

Handling black with precision, the 16-year-old So forced Topalov, currently the world's second highest rated player with an Elo of 2802, to split the point after 52 moves of the Gruenfeld with both sides having a rook and three pawns.

The hard-earned draw by So (Elo 2668) and the victory by Rainil Bai (IM Eugene Torre over International Master Rigvan Berbatov) on board four, however, were for naught following the losses absorbed by GM John Paul Gomez and Darwin Laylo on boards 2 and 3.

Gomez bowed to GM Ivan Chapchinov (Elo 2661) in 29 moves of the English, while Laylo yielded to GM Aleksander Delchev (Elo 2622) as the Philippines plunged into a chain of 42nd to 46th places in the open section with nine points in four wins, one draw and three losses.

Entering the last three rounds, the Philippines trails sole leader Ukraine by five points.

Ukraine forged a 2.5 draw with top seed Russia 1 to raise its tandem 16 points on six wins and two draws.

In her pursuit with 13 points on four-in-1, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Hungary, Armenia and France.

The Filipinas, seeded 37th among 149 competing teams, will try to bounce back against No. 69 Turkmenistan, which lost to India, 1-3, in the ninth round Thursday.

So, huddled by six straight draws after winning his first assignment, plays black anew against GM Morgan Ismayat and he did Tono against Hale Master Hakan Arakhmi.

Laylo replaces Gomez on board 2 against IM Merlin Antonbrother while IM Richard Bitoon returns to action on board 4 against FM Ramyo Mabuyo.

While the men's team went down fighting, the women's team suffered a 0-4 mashing from Southeast Asian Games nemesis Vietnam.

Hoang Thi Bao Tram on the top board and ex-did Catherine Perena to WGM Pham Le Thao Nguyen, Bulp Yen Jose to WGM Nguyen Thi Mai Hung and Jeslani Rivera to WGM Nguyen Thi Thanh Ai.

The 32nd-seeded women's team got stuck at eight points and plummeted to a share of 69th to 89th places in the 115-team field.

Powerhouse Russia 1 routed India, 2.5-.5, to rally in eighth straight win and pulled away with a perfect score of 16 points. Serbia and Russia 2 are joint second with 13 points each.

Next up for the Philippines is No. 61 Bolivia, which drew with FCBC, 2-2.

Women's team member Shrineal Stephanie Cesar Caindec opted to rest Cassandro and will be fielding Perena on the top board against Daniela Cordova.

Sherelin Cua will play board 2 against Rujanis Ramirez. Jose will play board 3 against Diana Leon and Dorcas will play board 4 against Gabriela Avila.

Topalov, world champion in 2005, seized the initiative after 22. Rc7 but allowed So to initiate massive exchanges that included the queens on the 32nd move and bring about an equal position.

RAIN Gregorio (fourth from left) receives his third Coach of the Year trophy from legendary mentor Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan (second from left) and PBA Press Corps president Tito Talao (right). With them are (from left) PBA chair Rose Perio, PSC commissioner Chito Loyzaga and PBA commissioner Chito Salud.

WILFRED Koroye Uyenguyo (left) receives his third Rookie of the Year from Bores Flores, representing his grandfather, the late Clarey Flores of the legendary Crispa Redmanizers.

Uytengsu issues stiff challenge to Salud

By Mhaeng S. Castillo

A MAN who never holds back in saying what he feels, Wilfred Steven Uytengsu issued a challenge to new PBA commissioner Chito Salud Wednesday night in craft irregularities in the league and make everyone involved to a term penalty.

The outspoken Alaska MVP owner delivered his remarks after accepting the Executive of the Year award from the PBA Press Corps during its Awards Night at the Gateway in Araneta Center.

"Rules cannot be basic and one cannot simply look the other way when obvious rules are made," Uytengsu said referring to some loopholes made in the past in his speech before several members of the league's board, other members and fans.

"Selling prize talent or a other team for the other team to make to save payroll is not good for the league," he continued. "The balance of parity will be distorted and we will return to the old days of two or three dominant teams.

"There are many examples of such rules that should have been scrutinized further and (that) would have revealed (that) there is more than meets the eye."

Uytengsu, along with former Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio, were the biggest winners of the night, with Gregorio taking home his third Coach of the Year trophy. Uytengsu, a two-time PBA chair, won the Executive of the Year award for the third time.

Uytengsu also blasted for a review of the present team and individual salary cap systems, which, he feels is being violated.

"It's really believable that some teams can be accident leaders that. Even with all 12 players on their bench. Other would all be players on team other teams) are within the cap and some of these players supposedly gave up some salaries to stay or move over to a given team," he added.

"What about players that are offered sizeable amounts above and beyond the maximum individual cap? Where is the parity in that," he continued. "If we intend to keep maximum amounts, then we be in that you can't have rules that are not enforced."

Uytengsu went on to say that the leaders dare fall on Salud to make things right and for all the governors who represent his fellow team owners to reflect on what is right.

"I wouldn't rather lose with honor than win with shame," he said.

Jose Rizal trips MIT, keeps bid for Final 4

By Gutoff Tupas

JOSE RIZAL leaned on the trio of Cris dela Paz, Kevin Ollivieres and Jeremar Garcia as the Light Bombers trounced the Olympia Red Robins, 83-78, yesterday and stay in the fight for the last Final Four berth in the juniors' division of the 86th NCAA basketball tournament at the FEOC Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Dela Paz poured 21 points while Ollivieres and Garcia contributed 20 points apiece as the Light Bombers surged to their way to the 5th Rookie Junior Blazers and Lemuel Squires with double-P seeds.

But the Bombers and the Squires teamed up with the lowest quotient, 0.81 and either will play to a knockout game today with the winner playing St. Benilde for the last semifinal berth on Friday.

San Sebastian, which already clinched the No. 1 seed and a twice-to-beat bonus in the Final Four, stunned top seed San Beda, 70-75, in overtime.

Glen Jones-an scrimmed a game-high 31 point effort in the extra with nine rebounds, five assists and four steals to lead the Stags, who ended with a 12-4 card.

The Cubs, who fell to only their second loss in 16 games, including 13 in the second half. The 5-foot-10 Abdon also contributed 13 rebounds, however.

San Beda will take on the winner among CSB, Letran and San Filial while No. 2 San Sebastian battles the No. 3 Perpetual Help (13-4) meeting later a victory to arrange a best-of-three title showdown.

Fiery UM Hawks seek Naascu cage title today

By Marc Anthony Reyes

UNIVERSITY OF Manila hopes to reverse its dynastic rule in the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) when it goes for the men's basketball championship against STI today at the Mapua Cafeteria.

The Hawks, winners of Game 1 (79-73) last Wednesday, can clinch their first title in five years with a win in the 2:30 p.m. main game.

UM captured five straight titles from 2000 to 2005 highlighted by a record 86-game winning streak while STI prevailed in 2007 at the expense of the Hawks.

Coached by Pedu Castillo, UM will again be powered by six-foot rookie guard Rhandolfo Lolino who, as 210 years old, will be ineligible next year.

The seven-shooting Collins, who hails from Davao, scattered 28 in Game 1 and STI has to step him to forge a deciding third game in the best-of-three showdown.

Information and Content Provider will dispute third place in the 1 p.m. match.

Philinia will be the prohibitive favorite when it tries to clinch the junior title against Centro Escolar at 11:30 a.m.

University of Manila and St. Claire will battle for third place at 10 a.m.

Perpetual eyes back-to-back cheer crowns

PERPETUAL HELP aims to make up for its disappointing basketball season when it sets out for back-to-back titles in the 2010 NCAA Cheerdance Championship today at the FEOC Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The results called Perpa, who won the crown in lopsided fashion last year, lead the nine-school cast vying for the P150,000 purse in the event held in coordination with the Interscholastic Cheerleading Championship (NCC).

"It's going to be a more exciting competition this year," said Jose Rizal U's Paul Segura, who heads their cheerleading organization.

The NCAA and the NCC will hold a cheerleading camp prior to the event to give participating teams an safety measures while they perform their routines.

The second and third placers to the competition will get P60,000 and P40,000, respectively.

Among the schools expected to do well are Jose Rizal, the 2008 champion, which wound up second last year, and 2009 second runners-up Emilio Aguinaldo College. Cathy P. Tupas

THE SEPTEMBER 28 issue of Total Fitness, a magazine for health buffs and active individuals, is available at leading bookstores, magazine stands, select bike shops, health centers and fitness gyms. For inquiries, call 2746711 to 14.

Laurente, Elorde headline Kontra Droga fight card

WORLD-RATED ASEA former Orient champion Jhenie Laurente will do battle with Thai Kongphat Jitmuang in the headliner of the Boxing Kontra Droga presented by Johnny Cheng's Management International starting at 5 p.m. tomorrow at the Elorde Sports Center in Sucat Road, Parañaque.

The 10-round bout will serve as Laurente's preparatory fight before he goes to Las Vegas and appear in a boxing card promoted by Bob Arum of Top Rank Promotions in November.

Also featured in the boxing card being supported by the Boxing Club of Manila (BCM) is the fight between Jun Martin "Bal" Elorde, grandson of the late Flash Elorde, and Thai Sirisaenchaeron over eight rounds.

SUPERBIKES SERIES

Buncio sweeps fifth leg

BUNGHO TITLIST Mario Buncio of TRI-ISE Moto Oil Yamaha Racing rebounded with a bang, posting a sweep in the fifth leg of the 2010 Petron Pinoy Philippine Superbikes Championship Series recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Calumpang, Batangas City.

Through turning a busy stopwatch, Buncio exuded intensity and determination for the win that fortified his overall lead in the event supported by Enamel Bore, Pagcor Sports, MTRCB, Interaxial, Inside Racing Magazine and Stopfight TV.

His bum stomach forced Buncio to forego the time trials, which gave him second last in the 15-man field. But surprisingly, he quickly jumped up to arrest the pole at the start of the pro-blind and posted a hair 1:49.0 gap time to pull away for the victory.

Young Dashi Watanabe finished second, way ahead of Glenn Aguilar of Enamel Bore-Dunlop Racing.

With the victory, the 25-year-old Batangueño ace on his goal of a four-peat as he now totes 244 points, 43 ahead of Aguilar with 201. Watanabe remains third overall with 192.

The 15-year-old Watanabe also boosted his bid for the Superbikes intermediate crown following a triumph over Mario Nino Garcia and Randel Rosello.

Aguilar, on the other hand, crushed in his fifth straight victory in the Motard class over Garcia and Ted Alferez.

John Paul Jose delivered with aplomb, wiping the Superbikes Bosses title over Bernard Durante and veteran Marino Begtang.

Also pulling off sweeps in their respective divisions are Jaigo Ildhao and Tibby Roman, Nino Alfeo, Cirelle Bailon

MARCO Buncio shows chapin from overseas.

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Editor Raul D. Pangalangan • Assistant Editor Connie S. Nuñeza

BUSINESS

P-Noy infra scheme may be debt-funded

By Dianne L. Lucas

KEY INFRASTRUCTURE projects touted to be the economic centerpiece of the Aquino administration will likely be funded through a multibillion-dollar foreign borrowing scheme to ensure Filipino ownership of big-ticket ventures.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a Palace official yesterday told the Inquirer that the government would create a corporate entity that would sell bonds to foreign creditors.

"These funds, in turn, will be used to fund the infrastructure projects," said the official who refused to be identified because discussions regarding the scheme were ongoing.

When totally conceived, the so-called infrastructure fund is envisioned to be a scheme that will allow foreign investors to directly participate in local projects through direct equity infusion.

The Palace official believes that the equity scheme may prove to be less attractive than outright debt partly because of foreign ownership restrictions on key infrastructure projects, many of which may be considered as vital to national interests.

In addition, debt funding is, in general, cheaper to generate than equity.

The official stressed that no final decision has been made on the funding

P-NOY /B4

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

Sept. 30, 2010

43.880

SEPTEMBER

Shares close lower

LOSS. STOCKS yields this succumbed to profit-taking for the second session, but a late surge in bargain-hunting tempered losses.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index shed 11.1 points, or 0.27 percent, to 4,100.07.

The winning-to-all the property counters were hit hardest by profit-taking, declining by 1.6 percent and 1 percent, respectively. Only the holding firms counter bucked the downtrend.

Value turnover was this at P17 billion from over P5 billion the previous days.

Jeanne C. Escritor

Global bond offer yields $200M for RP

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT'S $200-million global bond offering drew an oversubscribing response from the international capital markets, resulting in an overall subscription of the debt securities by as much as 30 times, the Department of Finance announced yesterday.

Despite the strong appetite for the bonds, the government opted to stick to its borrowing plan of selling $200 million worth of securities.

The government has been borrowing steadily to plug an estimated budget deficit of P325 billion this year and settle maturing obligations.

Also, the government decided to trade new long-term securities with previously sold bonds about to reach maturity.

In particular, the government swapped

GLOBAL /B4

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Corporate whistle-blowers

ANONYMOUS tip from a disgruntled employee. That, according to the Bureau of Customs, sparked its investigation into alleged smuggling activities by key executives of Gillilck International Corp., a major supplier of oil products to the country's independent oil players.

In the complaint he or she recently filed with the Department of Justice, the BOC accused Gillilck of falsifying its records to evade payment of P780 million in duties and taxes for oil importations in 2004.

Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez said the BOC would also look into the company's other importations to determine if similar tax evasion activities have been committed.

Whenever I read about people in the private sector disclosing adverse information about the activities they were once involved in, the first question that crosses my mind is: What is the motive behind the action?

Was the whistle-blower spurred by "love of country?" Or did reasons other than altruism spur him to turn his back on his former colleagues?

If it was for patriotism's sake, then he should be commended for living up to the ideals of good citizenship.

But the reality on the ground is, those so-called "saving the light" incidents are often the result of frustration, envy or professional jealousy. To paraphrase a famous saying, he/she is equal to an employee scorned.

Consequences

Don't get me wrong. I have nothing against people who spill the beans on their company or fellow employees that could redound to the recovery of ill-gotten wealth or prosecution of the guilty.

Never mind if the motivating factor was less than noble or based on greed, like, being left out or getting only a small slice of the presumed pie. What matters is the net result of such actions to the public.

It takes a lot of guts for a person to provide inside information to the authorities that could lead to the imprisonment of the people he once worked with or whose table he may have shared on several occasions.

The action would inevitably lead to the dissolution of social or inter-family relations that were built through the years. Worse, when relatives of person are in play, the adversely affected parties may not be inclined to see gentle reason to get even with their detractor.

The intensity of the recrimination or desire for revenge increases by several notches if the parties involved are members of the same family or have been associated with each other socially or politically for ages.

And once the whistle is blown, there is no assurance that the whistle-blower will not be caught in the maelstrom that his action may have caused.

Illegal acts

Sometime in 2007, an American employee of Switzerland's biggest bank, UBS, turned over to the US Department of Justice documents showing that the bank assisted thousands of American depositors in illegally hiding their money in its coffers.

As a result of that revelation, the authorities used UBS as a US asset and sought the issuance of an order to compel the bank to disclose relevant information about these clientele.

Scared by the prospect of being held criminally liable, UBS entered into an agreement with the US authorities that, in effect, blew open the much-vaunted confidentiality of Swiss bank deposits.

This development resulted in the rest of the rule banking haven based its information. German banks and other exotic places now doing something similar under pain of being accused of money laundering and blacklisted in the international banking community.

So you think the whistle-blower was declared a hero for initiating the action that practically turned upside down our haven banks?

Not hardly. He was tried and found guilty of

CONTINUED ON B4

PRULINK	PRU LIFE UK
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Dec. 31, 2009	Dec. 31, 2008
Bond Fund - Peso	1.68576	1.68576
Managed Fund - Peso	2.18707	2.11340
Growth Fund - Peso	2.30307	2.18308
Equity Fund - Peso	1.63389	1.63389
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.88100	1.83110
Balanced Return Fund	1.12100	1.12100
Balanced Return Fund	1.10000	1.10000
Australian Fund - Peso	1.51300	1.51300
Money Market Fund - Peso	1.12100	1.12100

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Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

Currencies

Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
Australia	Dollar	43.7000	0.7000	43.7000
Canada	Dollar	43.7000	0.7000	43.7000
China	Yuan	6.4000	0.1000	6.4000
Hong Kong	Dollar	5.6000	0.1000	5.6000
Japan	Yen	0.5000	0.0100	0.5000
Malaysia	Ringgit	14.0000	0.2500	14.0000
Singapore	Dollar	34.0000	0.6000	34.0000
South Korea	Won	0.0400	0.0010	0.0400
Taiwan	Dollar	1.4000	0.0200	1.4000
Thailand	Baht	1.4000	0.0200	1.4000
UAE	Dirham	12.0000	0.2100	12.0000
UK	Pound	68.0000	1.2000	68.0000
Europe	Euro	56.0000	1.0000	56.0000
India	Rupee	0.9000	0.0200	0.9000
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.0050	0.0001	0.0050
Kuwait	Dinar	150.0000	2.7000	150.0000
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	11.5000	0.2000	11.5000
Switzerland	Franc	43.0000	0.7600	43.0000

KIA ON TOUR & TEST DRIVE

THE 2010 PHILIPPINE ROAD SHOW

BUSINESS

RP external debt hit $57B in June

By Michelle V. Rosca

FOREIGN currency-denominated liabilities of the Philippines, incurred by both the government and private sectors, hit $57 billion as of end-June.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said this was within the levels that the economy could still accommodate.

The amount was up from $56.7 billion as of end-March this year and from $51 billion as of end-June last year.

The BSP said, the increase was largely due to the depreciation of the US dollar against other foreign currencies.

"Since the outstanding debt is translated to US dollar on report date, upward revaluation adjustment is incurred whenever the US dollar weakens against other currencies," the BSP said yesterday in a statement.

Of the latest external debt stock, the biggest share of $44.1 billion was accounted for by the government, while the balance of $12.9 billion consisted of debts incurred by private firms.

The BSP said the country's various debt indicators were all within levels considered comfortable by the international community.

The central bank said the latest assessment of the country's external debt, for instance, translated to an external debt-to-GDP (gross domestic product) ratio of 32.7 percent, slightly down from 33.8 percent as of end-June last year.

Of the amount, the BSP said 90.4 percent would fall due in the medium-to-long term, with average maturity of 11.2 years.

Earlier, the BSP reported that the country's gross international reserves (GIR), or the total amount of foreign currency reserves, reached $949.7 billion as of end-June. It was mostly six times the country's external debt service ratio last year.

The debt service ratio as of end-June also improved to 9 percent from 10.6 percent in the same period last year. Debt service ratio is the percentage share of the amount of debt payments to a period of the country's total earnings from export of goods and services, and remittances.

In the meantime, the BSP said more than half of the country's external debt was denominated in US dollars. Yen-denominated debts account for 28.6 percent, while the rest were denominated in various other currencies.

P-Noy infra ...

From page B1

resolved—whether debt or equity, that he did point out that the country's economic managers appeared to favor the debt scheme.

No amount has yet been set for the initial debt issue, but the National Economic and Development Authority has said that the first 10 projects under President Aquino's Public-Private Partnership program may cost at least P170 billion.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima was also reported to have quoted an estimate of $10 billion for about P440 billion in prevailing rates as the initial size of the infrastructure fund.

Meanwhile, Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo yesterday said the government would allot P10 billion to help infrastructure projects get off the ground. The amount would be set aside by the Department of Budget and Management from the 2011 budget.

Corporate Securities Info

From page B1

shorting are sources and sentenced to 40 months in jail.

Under our laws, solidly held companies and corporate officers are required to maintain internal procedures that protect the sanctity of "material relevant information."

The task of ensuring that the company keeps on the right side of the law rests, depending on the nature of its business, on its compliance officer or external auditor.

As in many countries, the compliance officer is responsible for seeing to it that the company complies with the rules of the regulatory agencies that have supervisory responsibility over its operations.

If misconduct are found, he is obliged to report them to the board of directors and recommend the imposition of disciplinary action on the responsible parties, including the measures that should be adopted to prevent a repeat of the violations.

A similar function is given to the company's external auditor who, in the course of his review of its financial statements, is required to bring to the attention of the audit committee (if there is one) or to its director, to the board of directors any act that appears to contravene the rules and regulations that apply to the company.

If any of these systems is in place and properly functioning, no corporate officials likewise are needed to make private companies toe the line.

(For feedback, please write to <corp-alert@inquirer.com.ph>.)

Global bond ...

From page B1

$1,040 (Dec 2016) worth of bonds to mature in 2021 with securities that were supposed to mature between 2011 to 2017.

Moreover, $950 million worth of bonds to mature in 2034 had been exchanged with previously sold ones.

Citi, HSBC and UBS acted as joint dealer managers and joint bookrunners for the transactions.

BDO Business Mortgage Loan Supports the Franchise Sector

In relation to the bank's thrust of helping SMEs grow their businesses, BDO Business Mortgage Loan supported the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) in its recently concluded 2nd General Assembly in Linden Suites last September 6, 2010.

The event also signaled the start of BDO Business Mortgage Loan and PFA's partnership that aims to assist the franchise sector not only in terms of offering flexible financing packages, but also in finding ways to expand their businesses by working alongside the franchisors in boosting their competencies to emerge as strong players in the global franchise arena.

To learn more about BDO Business Mortgage Loan, visit any BDO branch near you or call 667-1646/1580 or 1588.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2010 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 2nd of 2 B1

BUSINESS

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Lopezes eyeing purchase of BG stake in plants

By Amy R. Borres

THE LOPEZ GROUP is studying the possibility of exercising its right of first refusal over the 40 percent stake in the Sta. Rita and San Lorenzo power plants held by Global Gas Group.

The group is evaluating its options after the 130-based company signed a $400-million deal to sell its equity in the power plants to Korea Electric Power Corp. (Kepco).

The right of first refusal grants the Lopez group the first option to buy the shares of its partners if it waives the right, then BG can sell the shares to other companies, such as Kepco.

"All of the options are being reviewed. It's premature for us to say which option we would take ... but we don't have to rush with our decision," said First Gen Corp. president and COO Francis Giles B. Puno.

Puno said in a phone interview that the Lopez group hoped to make its decision by the end of the year.

First Gen owns 60 percent of First Gas Holdings—the parent company of First Gas Power Corp., which owns and operates the 1,000-megawatt Sta. Rita natural gas-fired power plant—and FGP Corp., which owns and operates the 500-MW San Lorenzo power facility.

BG Group holds the remaining 40 percent.

Both facilities, located in Batangas, use the natural gas from the Malampaya gas field off northwest Palawan.

The sole competitor of the Lopez group when it comes to natural gas power facilities is Kepco's 1,200-MW Ilijan power plant, which also sources gas from the Malampaya.

The BG Group signed on Wednesday the **sale and purchase agreement with Kepco.** The amount of the deal is still subject to standard **completion adjustments,** including interest to be paid to BG Group upon closing, which is expected in the first quarter of 2011.

However, the closing of this transaction is still "subject to receiving necessary waivers and consents from non-recourse **lenders and First Philippine Holdings,**" said First Gen in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

BDO inks deal with Wells Fargo

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL BANKING giant Banco de Oro Unibank seeks to further grow its lucrative overseas Filipino remittance business via a new partnership with American financial giant Wells Fargo & Co.

San Francisco-based Wells Fargo, for its part, has effectively tripled its remittance payout locations in the Philippines—the fourth biggest country in terms of inbound remittance—by hooking up not just with the country's largest bank but with the leading non-bank domestic remittance operator M. Lhuillier Financial Services Inc.

"We understand how important remittances are to the Philippines," said Daniel Inclán, executive vice president and head of Wells Fargo's global remittance services, during the signing ceremonies yesterday. "By helping our Filipino customers send money locations throughout the country, we hope we can stimulate the economy of their homeland by supporting their family and friends."

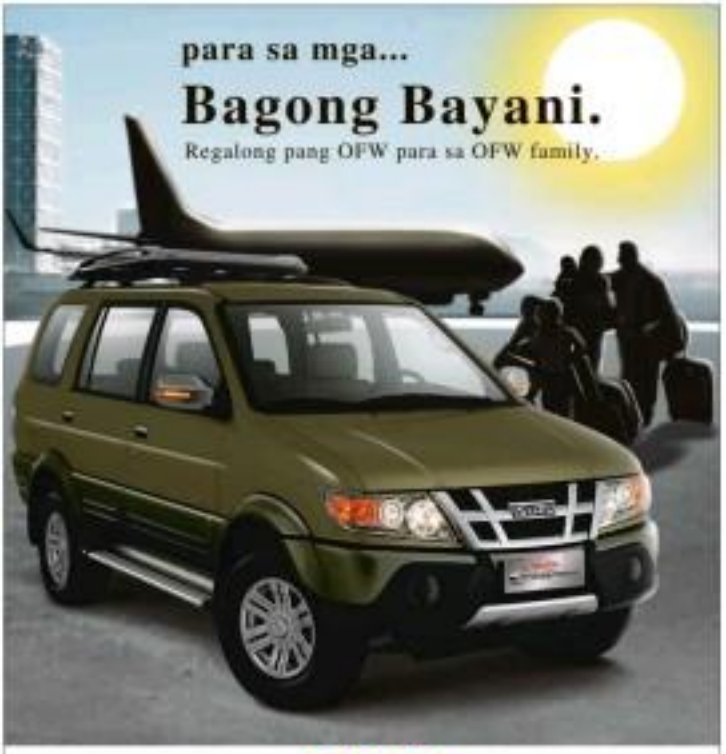
BDO has 658 branches and 1,310 automated teller machines and was cited by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as the largest remittance channel in the country in 2009 based on volume.

With this new tie-up, overseas Filipinos who use Wells Fargo customers can send up to $3,000 a day to their beneficiaries through ATM or up to $1,000 a day through M. Lhuillier.

Customers may also qualify for a discounted fee based on their existing relationship with Wells Fargo. Remittances to the Philippines are denominated in Philippine pesos.

Wells Fargo also has an existing partnership with Bank of the Philippine Islands, but because the exclusivity arrangement has lapsed, the American financial institution was free to secure turn up with other banks.

The tie-up is seen allowing BDO, already accounting for 30 percent of the inward remittance business, to further grow its market share.



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What to do in a market grown apathetic?

By Roger Pe
Contributor

WHEN THE MARKET has grown apathetic to a problem and you want a more effective solution, what do you do?

Elevate the problem to a means they cannot ignore. Before yet, brand the problem and make them see actual kids wearing it.

Kids? Yes kidding. The result can take you farther than you could imagine—such an added boost, a prestigious gold award at that.

That was the strategy of Bates 141 Manila to get high response for "Stinkitorians," a self-initiated agency project to create awareness for the growing number of street children population in Metro Manila.

To get people sign up to volunteer, the agency asked friends and suppliers to donate scrap materials for production of T-shirts with this message: "Kids to get me off the streets this 2010."

By giving out thousands of shirts around the city it became hard for people not to see the problem.

Soon, these images filled up social networking sites and exhibit halls in the metropolis. Facebook and Twitter caught the fever And because it was a presidential election year, celebrities became receptive to the messages, a perfect time even with the clutter of political campaigns that inundated Metro Manila last May.

In just a few days, Facebook gained thousands of members and people started to volunteer for the cause. The campaign became so big that it became the main attraction of "Rock for Change," a concert where all popular bands in Manila played.

To this day, "Fabulabulan" images are still being displayed around the city and volunteers continue to sign up.

Gold strike

Over the weekend last week in Singapore, Bates 141 let pay for his the public service campaign for Filipino street children. The forum was the re-energized Asian Advertising Awards, one of two most important award-giving bodies in the region.

The 3rd awards show that originally set the stage for Asian advertisers to showcase their works, Asian Ad Awards celebrated creativity for almost 30 years in an event that annually gathered Asia's best of the best.

Known as Spike Asia today, more prestige claims have been added to the show with no less than Cannes International Advertising Festival, the world's biggest celebration of creativity in communications and most prestigious becoming its ally.

Asian Ad Awards 2010 regarded the impending return of better times for advertising. With its home back and becoming a conglomerate festival, it was a fitting stage for Bates 141

ASIAN Ad Awards Gold winning team: Joey Ong, executive creative director and Noah Fabian, associate creative director

Manila to show the big boys that it can now be taken lightly.

Bates 141 Manila's creative weight is heavy with Joseph "Joey" Ong, the guy who gave JJF in first Asia Adfest Gold ("Trees," Centerpiece, 2006) to print stunning the agency's creative lore.

"Trees," the most international, ally awarded Philippine ad in 2006, won to Cannes, One Show and was profiled in a number of global trade magazines.

"We're proud of this gold to post win," says the young and athletic Ong who is equally proud for his "Fabulabulan" partner associate creative director Noah Fabian for the award-winning piece.

As he speaks in his agency's chic boardroom in The Fort, Ong tells us that the Spike Asia gold win is "really big for Bates 141, proof that with a lot of hard work, things can be achieved."

"My office is small but hungry small shop with big dreams. Hope this won't be the last time we'll make noise in the industry. We're proving that you don't have to be part of a big agency to win big, like when David Droga told me when I met him. It's always good to be in a small agency, small is good, to make big things happen," Ong says.

At Bates 141, where the agency's manner to do "change advertising" through powerful campaigns, Ong's foremost mission is to build and change perception—"that we can be on par with Asia's best and become global honors," he says.

Lean and mean, Ong and his CEO Angel Sumaoang, go for new business pitches almost weekly to solidify its presence to the industry-market.

As change is happening faster in asia than anywhere else in the world, Bates 141 wants to be a catalyst for it whether in consumer engagement and behavior. "Hopefully, we also want to change our current creative ranking and be up there in the charts," Ong says with determination.

Brief history

The Bates brand was born in 1940, when Ted Bates opened his first office, Ted Bates Inc., in New York. Bates eventually became the world's fourth largest agency network and expanded the business for 26 years without losing a single client.

Ted Bates' creative partner was advertising pioneer Rosser Reeves Reeves who crafted one of the most popular brand slogans of all time (Melts "melts in your mouth, not in your hand"), wrote the first best selling book on advertising, "Reality in Advertising," and created the famous Unique Selling Proposition (or USP) that is still used by marketers today.

These rare industry pioneers believed that advertising exists for only one purpose—to sell the client's product. To quote David Ogilvy, founder of Ogilvy & Mather, "Bates taught me my trade and that the real purpose of advertising was to sell the product."

Their ethic of effectiveness remains a core focus for the agency today and continues to inspire all advertising agencies.

Bates and Reeves, in many ways, are considered the original "ad men." It is widely accepted that the popular TV drama "Mad Men" is based, at least in part on them.

Ted Bates' empire was launched in Asia in the early 1960s after acquiring a stake in Cathay Advertising from George Peterson, an Australian advertising executive. Cathay Advertising was subsequently founded in 1946 to service the advertising needs of the Cathay Group in Hong Kong and Singapore.

The legacy left by Ted Bates and Rosser Reeves is still very evident within the culture at Bates 141, for example employees adopt approaching client challenges emphasizing on single focused mantra of asking better questions leads to better answers.

Forecast books now at Design Center

BOOKS that could spell the difference between what's hot and what's out for 2011 and 2012 are now available at selected at the Product Development and Design Center of the Philippines.

Project Director Ivan Henares, offers eight publications featuring trends that will cover the seasons of 2011 and 2012, providing in-depth information on major cutting-edge changes and essential design directions for fashion and accessories, and even home design and interior decoration. Carlin International Trend Book, another forecast publication also from Paris, France, releases 10 different trend forecasts that cover five themes for the seasons of 2011 and 2012. Each of these themes offers potentialities and opportunities for fashion. An interesting read also is Interiors 2011/2012 from the Color Association of the United States (CAUS), based in New York. Aside from the usual forecasts, the book also includes color swatches arranged in a palette, provided with descriptions for the users' ready reference. Print Interiors D'Interieurs' Impressari, De Les Elles Editions (XXI of Spain is their trend publication for fashion fingerprints (XXI).

These publications are available at the Design Center.

For Disney, safety plus fun equals winning website

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

PARENTS WILL do anything for their children, and that includes shelling out a monthly subscription to Club Penguin, the English-online product of the Disney group of companies.

As such, Club Penguin (www.clubpenguin.com) has been able to rake in the subscription fees from its online game even as other websites have been able to accomplish: earn a profit from a monthly subscription to a webpage.

And that's because Club Penguin often numbers and haters something that they cannot get elsewhere, which is a safe environment where their children can interact with other children, learn online games with the trademark Disney brand of animation and even do their bit to help the less fortunate.

A major factor that sets Club Penguin apart from other virtual worlds is the safety feature, according to Robb Bowman, head of Disney Online Studios for Asia-Pacific.

Bowman explains during a recent briefing in Singapore that Club Penguin has a staff of 170 people in Australia dedicated to making sure that the Club Penguin player—mainly children aged 6 to 10 years old—are free from bad words, and adults and other children with inappropriate behavior that house other websites.

The Club Penguin bathroom is guided by a white filter, which lists words that will be allowed to pass through so users here talk to each other so they can guess or go through knowing sentence. If the words not on the filter list, then it won't get posted.

"We have to remain vigilant so that no inappropriate language gets through. Sometimes, very seemingly innocent words become inappropriate if used together," Bowman says.

Club Penguin also provides parents with tools to supervise their children's presence in Club Penguin, in keeping with its moral-toned providing children a safe and worry-free online entertainment.

For example, parents are given control over what time and how long their children can log on to Club Penguin so that the children will not spend too much time online to the detriment of their other responsibilities, like school work and chores.

Providing children with a safe online environment to play and learn is one what drove Dave Faltoon in the small town of Kelowna, Canada, to develop in 2005 Club Penguin, a virtual, snow-covered online playground full of colorful penguins controlled by children.

Club Penguin was such an instant hit and attracted so many children around the world that it did not require the use of Disney, whose business is also built around children. Thus, in August 2007, Disney took over Club Penguin for $350 million and started to release content with the compelling example of the founding fathers.

Combine safe entry features with the games, animation designed for learning and entertainment, Disney has long been for and the results in educational revenue generated that does not depend on a single cent from online advertising.

"It has been profitable from day one," Bowman says.

Club Penguin has 12 million members across 190 countries, some of whom pay a monthly subscription fee of P195.

Revenue stream that children are actually join for free and enjoy some of the features.

But with the subscription fee, children are provided a "more dynamic" content and a "deeper" experience, such as more animated graphics, better games and access to more features such as virtual clothes for their penguin avatar and décor for their own online igloo.

Disney Online Studios, under which Club Penguin operates, recognizes the importance of Southeast Asia to the growing network of Club Penguin, which is why it recently launched the option for Filipino parents to purchase memberships in Philippine pesos.

By doing so, Filipinos can help Club Penguin expand its reach and remove Disney's brand in the virtual world.

CLUB Penguin gives parents peace of mind

Major, major market trends in book publishing - part 2

LAST WEEK we presented two major market trends in book publishing.

Trend 1. "Books are not dead ... they're just shifting to how they are published and where they can be purchased."

Trend 2. "Offering all events digitally, and printed books"

If you missed last week's column, just visit www.marketingrx.ph.

Here are the next three major market trends (and we close with this). Again, aside from the Manila International Book Fair exposure and observations made two weeks ago, the trends are (the below are from the Marketlopper presentation of Jim and Ellen Harrell, senior executives of Ingram International, one of the largest Christian book publishers in the world.

Trend 3. "The democratization of publishing through new methods"

Anyone who is an aspiring author, or a writer whose manuscript submissions have been rejected by established publishers can now turn to Print on Demand or Self Publishing methods of, well, publishing.

With Print on Demand services, an author can order super small quantities (as low as one or two copies) now in as little as three Cannon International Ad. winning Festival, the world's biggest celebration of creativity in communications and most prestigious becoming its ally.

Asian Ad Awards 2010 regarded the impending return of better times for advertising. With its home back and becoming a conglomerate festival, it was a fitting stage for Bates 141

MARKETING Rx
Dr. Ned Roberts & Andy Roberts

studio practices the "micro-distribution business model" and offers authors different packages to display and sell their books. According to Harvard University's Sherman Journalism Fellow Gabriel Sherman, in a Wired.com article, Print-on-Demand Book Store "changes its cost structure authors according to a tiered fee structure: $25 simply to store a book (five copies at a time, replenished as ordered by the author for an additional fee); $75 to feature a book for 48 hours (see results in the "Recommended" section); and $125 to, in addition to everything else, introduce the book to the store's e-mail newsletter. Feature it on the Front Porch(tm) page of the store's website for at least 60 days, and enable people to buy it online for the time it's stocked in the store. And for $225 - essentially the platinum package - the store will throw in an in-store reading and book-signing event."

In the past few years in the Philippines, many of the world famous bestsellers and "inspirational" gurus, like Tamara Kong, Bo Sanchez, Jonah Go, Francisco Colayco and Sir Ned Roberts (your Sir Will not) have taken the self-publishing route with much success.

Self-publishing has become democratized because of the Internet. Here you can turn that manuscript, powerpoint presentation, or speech (have it transcribed) and turn it into an e-book. Sell it on various websites through affiliate marketing or just give it away as a free download on your own website and you're a published e-author. Another route is Amazon.com's self-publishing company, CreateSpace.com. There are no set-up fees and you can self-publish not just books, but also audio and video. In the Philippines, Ulad Foundation (uladdocumentation.org) offers authors assistance in turning their books or manuscripts into e-books. Apple's iPad also has thousands of FREE or 99-cent e-books available for free or for a fee.

Trend 4. New Methods of Marketing.

Authors are leading the charge not only by self-publishing their work but also self-promoting. Their books also through social media, particularly Facebook, Twitter and Youtube. Before writing this article through Google docs, we received an e-mail alert from Bo Sanchez's Facebook page. It was an invitation to "Like" his Truly Rich Club page and get a free chapter download for free. The thing is, Bo doesn't even know that he's done this. He has a "Social Media Marketing team" dedicated to posting such offers, blogging about his books, populating other websites and blogs with comments about his books, uploading videos on Youtube, etc etc. The result is over P1,000 in sales every month (which finds his many ministries and churches). Even digitally publishing and marketing his book, Truly Rich, has its membership site, TrulyRich.com. (See site IMRC.com)

Our fifth for our friends in the publishing industry:

1. Create, develop and implement a digital marketing strategy (Embrace the new technologies and the new trends).

2. Put together a social media marketing and Internet marketing team who can leverage on these new methods of marketing.

3. Study further and learn from the case studies that we mentioned in the past two columns.

We welcome your comments and questions. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtdsl.net or DrNedmarketingrx@gmail.com. God bless!

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or call: 397-1888 loc. 641 or 120

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
CONSULTANT SERVICES

October 1, 2010

The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the World Bank towards the cost of Mindanao Rural Development Program-3, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments of consultancy services for the Invitation of the Project Monitoring Specialist.

The Mindanao Rural Development Program (MRDP) is a currently executed program of the Department of the Philippines (DOP) in Mindanao through the Department of Agriculture (DA), with assistance by Assisting Unit the World Bank. The program aims to improve incomes and food security in the targeted rural communities within the 25 provinces of Mindanao. The program has progressed the conclusion of a midterm review in the 1st quarter of 2010. It is across the progress is implementation.

The services include the evaluation of the project implementation based on baseline data, impact assessment, and other project operations data. It is necessary assess the impact of capacity building and evaluate the support to farmer field functional groups to gather data in the impact and beneficiary questionnaire. Also, the post-test of the Field Agricultural would be to take four months from the issuance of the Notice to Proceed.

The MRDP PMO now invites eligible consultants (ICs) to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants should provide information demonstrating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochure, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate in order to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers May 2004.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during the office hours (Monday-Wednesday, Thursday-Saturday 8:00am to 5:00 p.m.).

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 3:00 p.m. of October 8, 2010.

Engr. CLINTON A. RAMOS
Program Director
Department of Agriculture
MINDANAO RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Program Support Office
Ground Floor, Agriculture Building
Lanang, Davao City
Tel No. (082) 300-0000
Facsimile: (082) 300-0000
E-mail: mrdp_psu@yahoo.com
(BB) Oct. 1 (2010)

CENTRAL LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY

Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines 3120
Telefax No. (044) 456-0219 local 109
E-mail Address: clsu@mozcom.com
Website Address: http://www.clsu.edu.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The Central Luzon State University (CLSU), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers and contractors to bid for the following project:

Name of Contract	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Source of Fund
Supply and Construction of Materials	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE PRODUCTION AREA (By-Lot)	P3,000,000.00	Income from the Land Bank of the Philippines

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking work similar to the one within the last five years with an amount of at least 50% of the prospective project for building. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

The complete schedule of activities are as follows:

Bids Activities	Schedule
a. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 4-27, 2010
b. Pre-bid Conference	October 7, 2010, 2:00 PM at the CLSU Conference Room
c. Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 28, 29, 2010 PM at the CLSU Conference Room
d. Post-qualification	October 29, 2010 PM at the CLSU Conference Room
e. Notice of Award	October 30, 2010 PM at the CLSU Conference Room
f. Notice to Proceed	October 31, 2010

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders at the Procurement Office upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) to the Cashier's Office. Bidders from Cashier's Office.

All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, Manager's check, bank draft/or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a foreign bank, or bid bond in accordance with Section 27 of the IRR of RA 9184. Bids not accompanied by the above bid security shall be automatically rejected at the Opening.

The Central Luzon State University shall not be liable for any and all damages that the bidder(s) may incur, and no refund of this is only limited to withdrawal of bid documents, and in the case of failure to submit bids.

Approved by:

(Signed)
ROMEO A. ARELLA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(BB) October 1, 2010

More Classifieds

PHIVOC A6
DOH-CHD B11
DOLE Region IV B11
Dep't. of Tourism B16
PhilHealth Regional Office IVA B16
DBP B21
Dr. Jose Fabella Mem. Hosp. B21
DSWD Region VI B21
Landbank B21

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 827 Intramuros St.,
Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEPS)

Notice is hereby given that the following corporations/employers have filed with the Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National / Citizenship	Position
CAPE EAST PHILIPPINES, INC. 6/F RCL Tower, Commerce Ave., Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Kevin Francis Monk British	Training Manager
NETWORK MANAGEMENT RESOURCES CORPORATION 2nd NOP East 21 Manila Bldg., 1 Dela S. Bukod St., Manila, Manila	Cuanchang Chang Chinese	Marketing Manager
LEIGHTON CONTRACTORS (PHILIPPINES), INC. 7/F L.V. Locsin Bldg., 6752 Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Kevin Stuart McCahill Australian	Construction Manager
TURNER & TAYLOR INTERNATIONAL (PHILS.), INC. UP The Professional Tower, 33 EDSA cor. Quirino Ave., Mandaluyong City	Suzanne Kate Merrill New Zealand	Water Resources Consultant
MUSASHI-HILL INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISES, INC. PHILIPPINE BRANCH 6/F Rockwell Business Center, Ortigas Ave., Pasig City	Qiang Huang Yi Vietnamese	Personal Language Editor - Vietnamese Language
NOKIA SIEMENS NETWORKS PHILIPPINES, INC. 20/F Philamlife Tower, Paseo de Roxas St., Makati City	Marcus Andreas Wallstein-Andersson Swedish	Engagement Principal Head South
NOKIA SIEMENS NETWORKS PHILIPPINES, INC. 20/F Philamlife Tower, Paseo de Roxas St., Makati City	Robert Lee Bo Wahl American	Customer Team Head
GOLD DELUXE PHILS. LTD. CO., INC. 7/F Metro Point Bldg., Ortigas Pasig Ave., Makati City	Yung Kwan Yeung Chinese	Customer Service Representative
GOLD DELUXE PHILS. LTD. CO., INC. 7/F Metro Point Bldg., Ortigas Pasig Ave., Makati City	Jiming Zhang Chinese	Customer Service Representative
GOLD DELUXE PHILS. LTD. CO., INC. 7/F Metro Point Bldg., Ortigas Pasig Ave., Makati City	Chia Chih Huang Chinese	General Executive
GOLD DELUXE PHILS. LTD. CO., INC. 7/F Metro Point Bldg., Ortigas Pasig Ave., Makati City	Hong Guang Chu British	Customer Service Representative
ADITYA BIRLA MINACS PHILIPPINES INC. 10/F 1600 Eastwood Ave. Bldg., Eastwood City Cyberpark, 188 E. Rodriguez, Jr. Ave, Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Erik Albert Crowder Canadian	Assistant Manager - Operations
ADITYA BIRLA MINACS PHILIPPINES INC. 10/F 1600 Eastwood Ave. Bldg., Eastwood City Cyberpark, 188 E. Rodriguez, Jr. Ave, Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Todd Alexander Lorkun Canadian	Assistant Manager - Workforce
ADITYA BIRLA MINACS PHILIPPINES INC. 10/F 1600 Eastwood Ave. Bldg., Eastwood City Cyberpark, 188 E. Rodriguez, Jr. Ave, Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Brandon Michael Schultz Canadian	Assistant Manager - Training
ADITYA BIRLA MINACS PHILIPPINES INC. 10/F 1600 Eastwood Ave. Bldg., Eastwood City Cyberpark, 188 E. Rodriguez, Jr. Ave, Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Ryan Douglas Wood Mansfield Canadian	Assistant Manager - Quality
ADITYA BIRLA MINACS PHILIPPINES INC. 10/F 1600 Eastwood Ave. Bldg., Eastwood City Cyberpark, 188 E. Rodriguez, Jr. Ave, Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Michael Edward Rowden Canadian	Assistant Manager - Operations
SHINSUN TRADING CORP. #4 Sinsuan St., Balara, Quezon City	Hong Kwo Wei Korean	Operations Manager
EUROP CONTINENTA PHILS. INC. 20 Mindanao Cres. 2, Bentley St., Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Lea Rhy Maria Stephanie Bruger Filipino	Counting Asst. Manager
TOP EXPRESS (MYANMAR) LIMITED - BRANCH OFFICE 13/F Philamlife Bldg., 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Aung Oo Chinese	Technical Support Specialist
AMCHA TRADING CO. LTD. No.G-4, 2/F Prima Bonis, Taytay Garden Mall, Taytay, Rizal	Jaejeon Ko Chinese	Consultant
HOUSE RESOURCE SYSTEM, INC. Rm. 111 cor. L Pineda Bldg. B., Pateros, Metro Manila	Shu Cai Chinese	Sales Manager
MELDEX PHILIPPINES, INC. 1001 Lingkod Nakions ave., Manila	Andrew Dela Cruz Filipino	Mold Drawer, Sales Asst.
MAME SIGN ENGINEERING (PHILIPPINES) CORP. 7/F Megaworld Center, 1900 Roxas Blvd., Manila, Manila	Tadayuki Matsuura Japanese	Manager
SONG - SONG MIN TRADING CORP. 5-A Mindanao St., Mandaluyong City	Hyung Keun Kwon Korean	Sales Representative
CASPO, INCORPORATED 10/F Phinma Tower 6750 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Tio Budi Indonesian	Operations Supervisor
CASPO, INCORPORATED 10/F Phinma Tower 6750 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Kuan Sung Lee Malaysian	Marketing Officer
CASPO, INCORPORATED 10/F Phinma Tower 6750 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Shang Chu Chen Taiwanese	Customer Service Representative
CASPO, INCORPORATED 10/F Phinma Tower 6750 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Kim Liu Indonesian	Operations Supervisor

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications, please communicate with the Regional Director.

G.A.C.
RAYMUNDO E. ALEJANDRO
Regional Director

(BB) Oct. 1, 2010

OBITUARIES

EDUARDO "ED" D. DESIERTO

Retiree of Admiral United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 29, 2010 at the age of 60.

His body lies in state at Bolbo Church, Calumpit, Bulacan.

Interment will be on October 3, 2010, 2:00 PM at Hardayang Kayamanggo, Memorial Park.

"Love is a spark in a mighty soul, one in every life and its home."

"Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." – Matthew 11:28

Teresita Enriquez Vda. Liboro y Salang

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 28, 2010 at the age of 61.

She is survived by her husband, children Tareen, Marelle, Roslyn (†), Raymond, Ronald, Jhonanna, Jeff, and in laws, and her 11 grandchildren, request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Aranaya Avenue, Q.C. Interment will be on Sunday, October 3, 2010 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
– 2 Timothy 4

MIGUEL "MIKE" GOTAUCO

Died on the Vigil of our Lord on September 29, 2010 at the age of 75

He leaves, nephews and relatives request the prime readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Shrine, Holy Family Chapel, Boundary Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 3, 2010 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Crypt of Mt. Carmel Shrine.

BUSINESS

Banks' FCDU lending up 11% as of end June

By Michelle V. Remo

FOREIGN CURRENCY loans extended by banks grew by 11 percent in June, which monetary officials said bode well for the economy's recovery from a slowdown last year.

Loans from foreign currency deposit units (FCDUs), the section of banks in charge of taking deposits and extending loans in foreign currencies, amounted to $5.1 billion as of the end of the first semester this year, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

In the same period last year, the banking system's FCDUs lent $4.6 billion.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, the total FCDU loans as of June this year was 6 percent higher than the $4.8 billion posted in end-March.

Some of the borrowers of foreign currencies are importers of capital and consumer goods, and raw materials. Monetary officials said the rise in dollar and other foreign currency-denominated loans was an indication of an expected increase in demand for consumer goods built in the local market and overseas.

Officials said the rise in FCDU loans also reflect a projected increase in demand from foreign buyers since many of the borrowers were exporters who import raw materials.

"Major loan releases during the second quarter were in favor of a mix of borrowers, such as manufacturers of electronic products and wires, oil companies, and power-generating firms," the BSP said.

The increase in FCDU loans was supported by a rise in foreign currency-denominated deposits in banks, the BSP said.

FCDU deposits amounted to $34.5 billion as of mid-June, a record high. This was up by nearly 2 percent from $29.1 billion in the same period last year.

The BSP said the rise in FCDU deposits was consistent with the increase in peso-denominated deposits in the banking system. Regulators said the country's banking sector remained financially sound and that it still had the confidence of depositors.

PAL expects to post profit in '10

By Paolo G. Montecillo

DESPITE THE strong headwinds in its path, flag carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL) expects to end 2010 with a profit, ending two years in the red, on the back of the recovery in demand for air travel.

PAL president and chief operating officer Jaime J. Bautista said various cost-cutting and revenue-enhancement measures implemented since the start of the year were also starting to bear fruit.

"We are very cautious and we will continue to implement programs to generate more revenues," Bautista said at the sidelines of the annual shareholders' meeting of PAL Holdings Inc., the airline's parent firm.

"The outlook for PAL this year is that we will post a profit, but that will happen only if we can successfully implement our survival plan," he told reporters.

PAL's survival plan is a set of measures intended to help the company cut costs and improve revenues. This was formulated after PAL lost about $100 million over the last two years.

These measures include a more aggressive marketing program to attract more passengers and outsourcing of non-core services such as in-flight catering and airport services.

The outsourcing will affect about 2,600 of PAL's 7,000 employees.

The outsourcing of non-core services, Bautista said, would also be needed if PAL were to attract investors who would pour in fresh money to revitalize the airline.

The Gaisis Tan group, which owns about 90 percent of PAL, is now known as grooming its budget carrier Air Philippines, operating under the brand Air Phil Express. The group is investing $200 million to this expansion of Air Philippines.

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
Contributing Editors Janet Eppersen and Ria Francisco Primo

Milan fashion looks backward

By Larry Lovino
Contributor

MILAN'S TRADITIONAL power houses—Gucci, Bottega Veneta, Prada, Fendi, Ferragamo and Armani—send their DNA heritage for Summer 2011—but with a twist.

Those luxury brands created stars, bags, sunglasses with signature details...from the exclusive vaults of Bottega in

CURLICUES
PRADA'S OPTICAL ART... entering on from the Miuccia Prada

COLOR
PRINCE BY KARL LAGERFELD. Platforms sandals in color-block wood

MARY JANES
PRADA'S every size of hip-hop and espadrille soles on a wedged Mary Jane

Milan fashion looks backward

EGG SHAPE

RAF SIMONS FOR JIL SANDER. The uneven shape for evening. Summer 2011 is the egg silhouette in Japanese cotton fabric. >>

HOMAGE TO YSL COLORS

PRIDA GUERRINI FOR GUCCI... pencil-cut one-shoulder evening sequences with gold obi belts. >>

EVENIN

GUCCI'S SUSTERS EVEN

Prosegue da C1

Fendi's hidden logos and Prada's "tattooed hairstyles."

They also injected radioactive (meaning ultra vibrant) colors and reliable designs for fresh appeal. Buyers now demand newness before retail. Sophisticatives should come with limited runs. Luxury today is about quiet quality and hidden elegance.

Fashion designers such as Roberto Cavalli, Dolce & Gabbana, Versace and Prada presented the garments which are easier to wash and wear; they're very sensible. They look like inspired and extraordinary workday uniforms—from hooded wools to sweatshirt suits, bomber jackets, postal workers, safety shoulders, peasant dresses and overcoats 'n' millionaires.

Designs from Missoni, Etro, Christopher Kane for Versus, Dsquared2, followed Karl Lagerfeld and Miuccia Prada's supersize summer silhouettes with dropped hemlines, rounded shoulders and loose volumes.

The bags, shoes and accessories have been tweaked on a one-take-on-modernity. Bags have been shrunk to modest sizes, with softer structure and less edginess and ornamentation.

Prada's crochet-covered Mary Janes, Gucci's electric-colored clutches with the iconic tassel, Fendi's color-block platform sandals, Ferragamo's natural leather buckle tote bag and flat strapped sandals reconfirmed the jobs of Tod Gilt riders with a second pedestal of Tiananmen, about of sweet, ripe peach, smoky gray and beige, and of course, nude.

Sunglasses were big and round, earrings were giant hoops. All eccentric fashion brands showed daytime—for casual outdoorsy soirees to city corporate lunches.

Karl Lagerfeld for Jil Sander showed the best blouses with slim pants in acid colors, not with pink, red and yellow with plum. Billionaire-ready gowns could become the new black.

Simplified red-carpet gowns topped each show. Glitz and exaggerations were gone from Milan except for the charming white toss and big silk skirts shaped like eggs in Easter egg colors at Jil Sander and Armani.

Jersey was evident in many designer dresses. The marriage of high and low, vulgar and elegant, garish and muted, feminine and masculine, casual and formal.

Belts, too, were chic; they came in cord or tassels and patent vinyl crinolines. Prints were splashy, from the stripes of summer sailors on Prada to full blossoms at D&G.

Still, why is there a '70s vibe sweeping the fashion world?

Maybe fashionistas are weary of the arrival of fortunes in the world's economy, so that the ultimate escape is to the comfort zone of hippie times.

Judging from the fashion weeks of New York, London, Milan and, perhaps, Paris next week, fashion must be lived forward but can only be understood backward.

Fashion is a remembrance of things past as well as anticipation of the future. To be able to predict fashion and love it, one must study the times of dependable change. See the only thing constant in fashion is change.

TURBAN WI

GIORGIO ARMANI. Hea necklace for hi-all-look c

RADIOACTIVE COLORS

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN shows citrus green shoulder look with a neon orange peplum. >>

SHORT FORMAL

COCKTAIL DRESS in shimmering sequins by Prada Quasi-for Xmas. >>

MIX MATCH

MIUCCIA PRADA says it's the mix, not the match. Spring/Summer 2011 mixes harness-print separates with bi-color bag and red-and-white shoes. >>

ROUND SHOULDERS

PRADA'S NEWEST SHAPE is a flat garment with rounded shoulders. Sequin-sight shift dress with contrasting mid-banana embellishment and striped skirt. >>

BARDO

SPANISH JAR IS MOOR

STRIPED SOMBRERO

PRADA'S resort chic features prison-stripe sundress with matching striped sombrero. >>

PEASANT LOOK

D&G SAYS IT'S PLEASANT TO BE PEASANT. Innocent gingham sundress and mid-size Land Jodhpur dress. Liberty-print blazer. >>

There's a '70s vibe: exaggerated simplicity, radioactive colors and sensible shoes

CLUTCH

SIMPLE EVENING

STRAPPY sandals and a woven clutch for evening, by Karl Lagerfeld for Fendi, which showed the new season dresses on day dresses and evening wear

CENTURY

H NECKLACE

WOVEN LEATHER

PRADA'S multicolor woven leather platforms

F BIKINI

DISCREET LUXURY

BURBERRY PRORSUM— patent leather in lime green as a modern-day flap bag; below, Gucci by Frida Giannini "horsit bag" in python for the fall season

Wrangler®
FROM HIGHWAY TO Runway

THE FALL/WINTER 2010 SHOW LEAVES ITS MARK

Sam Oh was Oh so chic in denim as the host for the night.

Individuality was expressed in freestyle with dance group, All Stars.

Wrangler has been a true mark of individuality and freedom and this collection takes it a notch higher. Inspired by Kustom Kulture, an American subculture from the 50's to the 70's, the Wrangler Fall/Winter 2010 collection is all about the personalized, the customized and the amplified details that make you stand out from the masses.

A deserted highway was converted into the runway for this wild night. Engraved and embossed details, patches, shelby stripes, gleaming paintwork, and reconstructed cuts among others, inspired the looks these models sported.

Elevating customization into artistry, the Wrangler Fall/Winter 2010 show truly was a night that left a mark.

The "My Fit, My Edge," booth gave fashionistas a chance to flaunt their edge in their own pieces/looks.

The Thrill of Speed, Engraved Life and Working Heroes, are themes of this collection, each highlighting distinct styles that symbolize freedom of expression.

Wrangler
MY Fit
MY EDGE

LIFESTYLE

Bono, wife are new faces of Louis Vuitton

LOUIS VUITTON and Eden start a series of initiatives to celebrate Africa. The first is the release of the latest visual in its "Core Values" advertising campaign, which features Eden Tumolo's All Hooters and Bono and U2, photographed in Africa.

A temporary public exhibition, "Africa Rising," will run on Oct. 5-17 at the Pine-du Pont Wood atrium from Eden-art's head office in Pasig. It aims to celebrate Africa's dynamism and creativity.

The interactive exhibit combines traditional and contemporary visuals, and illustrates the beauty of this vast continent and the talents of its people.

The new "Core Values" image, portraying the U2 frontman and his wife walking in a vast landscape, reflects the couple's long relationship with Africa, both are long-term campaigners in the fight against poverty. In 2005 they founded the ethical clothing label Edun to encourage trade with Africa and to highlight the possibilities for the fashion community to do business there.

In 2009, LVMH, in line with its long-standing commitment to sustainable development, acquired a 99 percent stake in Edun to promote the brand's positive vision of responsible trade.

See the "Core Values" campaign, All and Bono wear Edun clothing, All carries a Louis Vuitton Edun collaborative bag. This bag is a Keepall 45 in Vuitton's embossed Monogram Mini-Fashion leather, whose rich brown color was especially chosen by Edun.

The bag is accessorized with a monogram charm handcrafted in Kenya by Made, a fair trade fashion accessory company which strives to provide employment and promote ethical trade in Africa.

Made regularly partners with Edun. The charm and the inside of the Monogram Mini-Fashion bag bear a plaque with the inscription, "Every journey begins in Africa."

With his guitar case, Bono carries a miniature Keepall Travel bag in Monogram canvas.

Proceeds from the sale of the Louis Vuitton/Edun collaborative bag, with All and Bono's box for the shoot, will go to Turbanisers in Africa for the Global Fund. Global, creative and related programs All and Bono will also donate their fee for the shoot to Chernobyl Children International.

ENGAGED couple Vic Sotto(L) and Maggie Wilson

CARETEN Seaman and Gianna Bendoy

GP REYES and Stephen Ko

MJE Sevastian and Joy Paperazzo

ERIC Cua and his sister Sonia Regina King

JESSICA Yoshe, Jackie Rocos, Monica Romero and Jenny Tecengco

MDL Manja Muscat, Dandee Romero and Johnny Velasquez

Golden theme for 2-year-old bar

MARIF'S Louie Yanson and cupcake DJ Karina Rocos

SABINA Samson, Hilton Pujan, Jose Maria Duvel Mabunto

TESSA Ortigas, Mahie Tantoco and Marco De Guzman

EDUARDO Pons

BETTINA Jeanne Alcuitz

ERICA Abalos and Selina Ocampo

JESSICA Rocos and Mary Lopez

DJ Alex Vicar and Qiana Au

COLD Ventosa, Lizzy Rocos, Karina Rocos and Nina Wakefield

MIKE Apolloni and Aubrey Paredes

RENAULT Lee, Ronald Lim, Ari Lee, Randolph Catane, Yves Borja and Dennis Yebo Ting

MARC Ibong

VIVE Lumocso and Ben Cabarrus and vocalist Elise Balaquit

CEBU DJ Mikki Taylor with DJ Marie

MAB Lagdameo and Tonny Ko

MICHELE and DJ Andy Cuidet with Dennis Princess and May Legaspi

PENTHOUSE marketing team Carla Fernandez and Kiki Bicos

CEBU-BASED mixed martial art fighters Fred, Aaro and Sakah Fuoa

Without batting an eyelash

Photos by Alex Von Hagen
presented by MARIE-MARC Santos

Opening the doors of Manhattan Arcade for Members Only was totally in high gear when they turned two, siblings.

The ladies gave a dazzling nod to the night's "Kiss of Gold" theme as they sparkled in gold-flecked outfits, while the men were dashing to their "tuxedo" best—suits and ties. The interiors of Manhattan was turned almost into a "Gold Finger" motif with exceptional golden touches. Black-and-gold cocktail tables, golden drapes and white-and-gold flowers as centerpieces, which got us all in a partying mood.

Djibouti Rat Pack tunes were provided by Members Only resident DJs Mars Miranda, Mario Garcia, Ralph Roy, Christian Sandoval and Karl Dj and a jazz band.

Then it was time for Members Only hosted by co-owners Eric Gan, KP Reyes and Linda Yanson to give a toast "in honor of this night's special anniversary." Okay, roll call for the flowing booze of the night: siblings Marcos Silvas, Intoxic XO Arkanis, Bolsci, Stella Artois and Williams and Humbert Inc. climbing over to house "of the two-cold sources of pure, unadulterated enjoyment that Members Only has to offer." GP told us they partied till everyone almost wobbled out way past Cinderella time, paiyuuguan.

Exquisite food was provided by talented chef Fernando Amorsolo, and we love.

More info? Call Jenny Yuanggui at +63917-5850000[2], and 0915-8888393 or jennyyuanggui@ymail.com

Hot DJ Katanawni

It was one of the best places to be from July to September when Owl young Mr. with the local P's, Kat-Kat-Kat "DJ Katanawni" Ramos, hit the decks at NU 107's popular Mini-mixer and Matchmaker with her hot-or-not selection of awesome dance music. siblings. It was meet-up par-tying with Kat-Kat-nawni as she kept everyone on his feet. Shouting the name-opposites was Mary's mate mom Linda Yanson who welcomed our town's celebrities and rest of Kat-Kat's friends, and only because of her great kid-ord, but also because of her super charm.

Katrina is definitely one of the most beautiful people of her generation. An incredible young lady and stylish hot DJ, Kat-nawni absolutely took Manila by storm, siblings.

"I also spotted Katrina's father, dashing business tycoon Enrique who gave full support to his daughter, cargo businessman Gabin Abrahin with his eye-catching wife, Bell-Ken Schmidt-A., former social secretary of Malacañang during former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's term. They had a blast cheering to the sounds of Katrina, Bradley Noel Dillon, Bong Suarez de Tagle with his vivacious Vicky were there, paiyuuguan.

DJ Mixmaster tour

That in-demand Zest Air "Asian's freshest airline" energized our local scene, paiyuuguan, when it sponsored the Philippine tour of the famous DJ Mixmaster, Ronald's finest house DJ and renowned producer of the dance anthem "Shannon da Rebel." Dang ganda nun at famous party in Manila. Next was Cebu's No. 1 club, The Penthouse at the Loft, awash in the delight of managing director Raymond Lee and marketing director Charlene Osmeña paiyuuguan.

DJ Mixmaster definitely electrified the partying crowd, bringing the house to their pinils. That unique happening was masterfully produced by Driven Manila and Masterminds World, wide, no lele, dahlings.

"Zest Air is truly honored to be the official airline for this music event and we are looking forward to more excitement as we help Driven Manila bring in more world-class performances by the world's top DJs," said Zest Air's brilliant worldwide VP for marketing, Lorena Ng.

Now, let's backtrack. Zest Air jetted in Los Angeles' hot DJ and label owner Andy Caldwell during 97.1's launch of Dream FM in Boracay. "So what's up for more adventures," I asked. A smiling Dave Arnold-Imm, Zest Air's brilliant marketing strategist added with a wink, "Oh just you wait, till we bring in non-national DJs making it truly memorable for the weekend warriors when they fly in to their favorite island getaways."

Zest Air has the refreshing approach of a scrappy rule of "yearly destinations" all over the country, and has one of the country's youngest fleets of Airbus A320s and Mabl aircraft regularly flying to local destinations.

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TV PERSONALITY Jyn Ching Pascual and husband Jeppy Pascual, Pascualdo VP for administration

DR. MARTHONY Bauzon Fiorentino, DSAP president

DR. MARTHONY Bauzo, child and public health specialist; Pascualdo's Dr. Abraham Pascual; Fiorentino Antal, national president of the Drugstore Association of the Philippines; Elisa Bergson, CEO of Fe del Mundo Medical Center

Pharma firm revitalized

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Robinsons Ermita Mid-Town · September 17-19, 2010
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Robinsons Galleria · October 1-3, 2010

A REVITALIZED ADF Pharma Corporation was recently launched by pioneer company, Pascual Laboratories, at the Manila Polo Club ballroom.

Hosted by Angel Jacob, "On Track, Get Track" paid tribute to ADF's medical and trade partners.

"We must make sure that together, we stay on the right track when it comes to health and wellness," said ADF president Virgilio Gomez.

ADF unveils brands for "A Better, Passionate" Pharmaceutical Corporation, is known for its flagship product, Propan. It's expanding its portfolio of products to include antibiotics and pain reliever products in its pediatric range and more and eye preparations in its OVT range.

ADF is also strengthening its support for medical practitioners and trade partners.

"We deeply value the relationship with our partners," says Dumalalo president and CEO, Manolo Encarnis. "We share a single concern mission, and that is to uplift the condition of our fellow countrymen when it comes to healthcare."

"Through faith, integrity and innovation, and following the tradition of Pascualdo, we look forward to continue providing quality and affordable medicine for the Filipino family," said lawyer Martin Pascual, vice chairman of ADF.

ADF President Virgilio Gomez

ADF VICE chairman, lawyer Martin Pascual, and New South Star Drug owner Alice Ty

PASCUAL Laboratories chairman Dr. Abraham Pascual and wife Sylvia

HOST Angel Jacob

HUMAN RESOURCES of ADF's Grand Central Station theme party

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Practical steps of beautiful women

AT THIS point, all I want for myself is to age gracefully. I think this realization was brought about after childbirth, when I started seeing sagging skin and fine lines.

I didn't know that I could actually wake up to see all the signs of aging happening right before my very eyes. I feel fortunate, however, that I really am not yet old and I am still in something about it. I've seen too many beautiful older women to give me enough hope to fight the signs of aging while I still can.

I figure as long as you don't need a bra, there's still hope for a woman. And if you realize it sooner, there may never be a need for a facelift.

After doing some reading and asking women who have maintained themselves well, I realize there is a formula to aging gracefully.

Exercise

Dramatic weight gain or loss stretches the skin and causes it to sag, it may result in stretchmarks.

The best way to keep your skin firm is by keeping a certain weight that is healthy for you and stick to it.

Exercising will help you maintain your weight; its benefits are far-reaching. It helps in the circulation and delivery of nutrients to your skin cells and takes away toxins.

The best reason for exercising is that it burns the best condition for the production of collagen, which supports fibers and helps keep wrinkles at bay. Drinking lots of water is also a good way to maintain aging-causing toxins.

KIMS Aquino is back with Bela and owner-ly Cosmetics

Pamper yourself

All the women I've asked seem to have a favorite dermatologist or aesthetician they see, drops at least once a month. It is almost like going to the dentist. It is a must-do.

If stressed, women get a massage, which I think is easy these days because you can even get it in the comfort of your home and is very inexpensive.

Having and maintaining good skin is part of the mindset. This actually makes sense since skin is the biggest organ. Who cares if someone dresses well if she has bad skin?

Some women meanwhile get regular hair trims and treatments. Not necessarily having their hair colored but just keeping it healthy.

Day and night regimen

Some women also have DIY during the day and heavy maintenance at night. Even eye creams nowadays have SPF to be used during the day.

Exfoliating also seems to be the word women look for to products to ensure the skin's elasticity and keep the skin moisturized and wrinkle-free.

Women also take care of their hands, nails and feet which are often neglected.

Less is more

When it comes to makeup, women keep it light. The more wrinkles one has, the more they will show with heavy makeup since the cosmetic tends to gather in the wrinkle.

Applying makeup one-she-cause wrinkles since it tugs, the skin in the same area again and again. Truth be told, who needs makeup if you have beautiful skin?

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

BENCH/
CELEBRITY TEENS
SCENTS COLLECTION

Bench recently launched new fragrances from its growing Celebrity Scents Collection. Especially created with matinee idols Jake Cuenca and Gerald Anderson and TV sweetheart Kim Chiu in mind, the scents embody the thrilling ride to stardom the trio is currently enjoying.

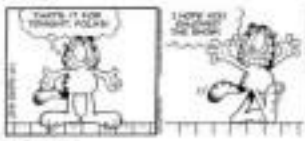
Gerald Anderson, in more ways than one, is Kim Chiu's male counterpart. Equally talented, famous and promising, Gerald is fast becoming leading-man material. "Adored," completely sums up his fans' regard of him. It has top notes of lemon, basil and violet leaves, middle notes of violet, osmanthus and lavandin; and base notes of patchouli and amber.

"Knockout," exemplifies Gerald's appeal to take every girl's feet off the ground. It has top notes of lemon, neroli, lavender and pineapple; middle notes of coriander, geranium, clary sage and violet; and base notes of cedar, musk and ambar.

The coy artist Kim Chiu won as the first Pinoy Big Brother Teen Edition champion, she revealed to The Buzz that she dreamt of becoming an actress and singer. Little did the then 16-year-old know that in a short span of time, she indeed would emerge as the biggest breakout star of the reality series.

Thus, Kim's first scent is aptly called "Becoming." It echoes the journey from a bright-eyed but talented contestant to being one of showbiz's prized young stars. Becoming has top notes of lotus

GARFIELD — By JIM DAVIS



A-LUPIN — By JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — By Mr. JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LOVEBANATS — By ELIZABETH CHONGLO

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY — By STEVEN PABUALAN

BABY BLUES — By JERRY SCOTT

TUKOON — By MARK COLL

BEN — By DANIEL SHELTON

KISO MACHINE — By MANOS ANDRA

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — By JIM TOOMEY

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Don't overemphasize things currently today, because it's easy to do this because it's probably makes a promise you are not really sensible. A probably no.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Romance or romantic aspects have could get out of hand today, or in turn, could be illusionary. It's very easy for people to expect too much from others today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It's very easy to jump to hasty conclusions today, make sure you can keep them. This is the kind of day when people will think of more than they can keep.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You feel unusually optimistic today. This is a good thing. Positive thinking is proved to bear fruit. Remember, if something looks too good to be true, it might be.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Be careful about making financial commitments today. Similarly, be careful shopping, because you may not be as well off as you thought. (Pay day is...)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You feel happy and optimistic about the future today. Nevertheless, be careful, because you may be tempted to go overboard about something. It's also easy to overlook small details today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) It's a fast-paced today, don't believe everything you hear. This is the kind of day when things get misconstrued, so think it out before you act.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You might find it easy to proactively take with others today, especially in group-effort tasks. Know that the Five Point Rescues you believe in will be put to testing. (Mercurial!)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) It's a good time to remain realistic in your dealings with friends, parents, relatives and authority figures today. Do not promise more than you can deliver. Your intuition is forearmed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Discussions about politics, religion, social issues and philosophical subjects will be lively today. You want big answers to big questions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Don't give away the store today. If you are reasonable in sound answers in the world of others, be circumspect! Don't spend money you don't have.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Do yourself a favor today and don't let your discussions with partners and close friends today. However, if these talks are fairly easy yourself! (So very detail-oriented). Retrograde make today — include appointments you might make!)

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

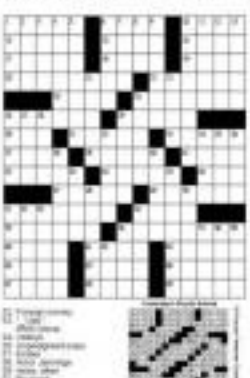
4	1	5	7	8	3	6	2	9
8	6	9	2	5	4	7	3	1
2	3	7	6	9	1	4	5	8
5	4	2	9	1	6	3	8	7
9	7	6	3	4	8	5	1	2
1	8	3	5	2	7	9	4	6
6	5	8	1	3	9	2	7	4
7	9	1	4	6	2	8	5	3
3	2	4	8	7	5	1	9	6

Concepts Sudoku By Dave Green

			3			4		
	7				1			6
			4			8		
				5		7		
8		2				4		9
	6		8					
		4		2				
9			5				1	
	1			8				

Medium Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Stephanie Kienle

AGE: 25

Occupation: Marketing manager of Philtan Pointe Inc.

Stephanie sports a style that's versatile from morning to evening. From breakfast meetings to power lunches to winding down after work, this on-the-go model's bag reveals how practical she really is!

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Bianca Fernandez

My bag: Chloé Silverado Hobo bag

Why I like it: It's very versatile. I can use it for work, for the gym, for the beach, for the weekend, for a night out. It's very practical and it's very me.

My handling style: Casual chic for the day, evening chandelier style

My choice of bag for the day: Christian Dior

What she loves about this bag: It can carry everything I need for a long day!

What's in your bag?

- My handy dandy Sulfur Amino Hydrator Lipgel cream—I love it because it's unscented, light and it helps me moisturize throughout the day.
- Jo Malone French Lime Blossom Cologne—A quick spritz on myself and I'm good to go! The scent is refreshing.

- My blackberry and its leather case
- I chose a bright, colored orange case to make it easier for me to find my phone in a big handbag.
- This Ford mustang glasses...they go with my overshoes because I do not wear contacts!

So your man has foot fetish

From page E8

clear thoroughly and rinse carefully with a mild to moderate cleansing soap. If you are diabetic, it's a good idea to inspect your feet for sores or irritations to make sure they heal properly. Also look for moles that might signal melanoma, or skin cancer, and have them checked by a dermatologist.

- Decorate your feet with rings or pretty shoes to enhance your fashion image. Feet not only take you places, they help you look good when you get there.

Toenails that are well-cared for add a special touch to a woman's overall appearance.

Tips from ladies with foot appeal

Nicholette professional pedicurist from someone who knows your feet every three weeks, at least. Since I run, I have to make sure my feet are always taken care of—foot pedicures close your cheats. I get to feet spas when I have the time. I also change shoe heights regularly from five-inch platforms to flat running shoes consistently.

Gucci socks like Silke this morning socks are key to running without blisters. I also like using using glide, which is like wax, to protect your feet from blisters. Unlike some runners, I love my five-inch open toe heels as heels as I make sure my feet are always ready to ditch them into flats in my heels in seconds."

—Isabelle B. Carpo, **triathlete and Jaguar publisher**

"I get manicure and foot spa once a month at Casa Nails Lounge. Once a month is just right for cleaning, especially to have a foot spa. Anything more than that might make dry skin build-up thicker than usual. To soften skin, I put petroleum jelly all over my feet and wear socks overnight to lock in the moisture and get rid of dry skin. Once a week of that and my feet are ready for flaunting sandals!"

—Camille Prats-Lizondgan, actress

"Shaving heels all week takes a toll on my feet so I enjoy regular foot

Lance Carpo

treatments at Thai-Zen Spa. But when I need to release tension from a long trip, I treat myself to [illegible] aromatherapy body treatment that includes a shea-infused foot scrub and relax in the Thai-style deck where it's warm to lounge. I also frequent Nail a Salon, but all my nail services.

—Karla Parsons, corporate banker

Non-toxic lacquer

Try this new concept in natural nail care: Butter London is a groundbreaking line of nontoxic lacquer and nail treatment that's free from toxic chemicals like formaldehyde, toluene or DBP (dibutyl phthalate). This means that oxygen and moisture can penetrate through the polish, allowing the nails to breathe.

Chanel's new men's scent . . .

From page E8

It's not every day that you see such awesome, gilded Hermès refashioning with a high fashion brand, a feeling shared by the Hermès set.

"Terrence is a discover whom I've advised for a long time," Ullel is quoted as saying. "I see him as one of the great masters of contemporary filmmaking. Throughout the five days of work, he showed extra energy and enthusiasm and achieved something that truly stands out from other fragrance commercials."

The French luxury house is no stranger to Tarantinesque. In 2004 Ilsa Lederman, directed his "Moulin Rouge" muse Nicole Kidman in a mini-film/commercial for the iconic Chanel No.5 perfume, while 2009 saw another screen-gilded actress, Audrey Tautou, starring in a commercial for "Coco Mademoiselle" directed Jean-Pierre Jeunet.

The author is the Style Editor of Rogue Magazine.

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bench/
CELEBRITY SCENTS COLLECTION

floral, bergamot, raspberry and mandarin; middle notes of wild rose, jasmine and lily; and base notes of sheer musk, sandalwood and vanilla bean.

Kim's second scent conjures her current image, "Stunning." From an awkward teen, she has blossomed into subtle an eye-catcher clad in designer wear and has been carrying herself with aplomb. Stunning, a fruity floral green scent, has top notes of peach, raspberry, bergamot and lemon; middle notes of jasmine, ylang ylang and violet; and base notes of amber, sandalwood, cedarwood and musk.

Rounding out the Bench 10s is certified star Jake Cuenca. The ravishingly handsome actor's scents are irresistible. A whiff of "Exposed" unleashes your inner Lothario while a splash of "Undress" unveils your hidden desires.

"Exposed" is a sexy citrus green floral scent. It has top notes of bergamot, citrus, lemon and lime green; middle notes of floral, jasmine, rosewood and cyclamen. The seductive "Undress" has top notes of bergamot, cardamom, Mandarin, cyprus, cognac and rum; middle notes of saffron, coffee absolute, apple liqueur, cassis and orchid; and base notes of sandalwood, roses and vanilla.

It must be noted that all three fragrances elements thoroughly involved themselves in the creative development process. The trio agreed on one important point: that the scent should come off as young yet sophisticated; and strong but not overwhelming—characteristics they embody as three uniquely different individuals.

Each of the Bench Celebrity Scents Collection is packaged in a slim plastic bottle, which makes it handy to be carried around anywhere. It comes in body spray application, so it is not too strong to be used anytime of the day. Bench scent retails for only P179 at 120 ml.

Available at any Bench, Hardbench, Benchbody, Superbench Stores and Bench to Go Kiosks nationwide.

EXPOSED BODY SPRAY by JAKE CUENCA

FRAGRANCE OIL FROM EXASSE, FRANCE

Chanel's new men's scent makes a mark

No less than Martin Scorsese directs the TV commercial

CHANEL'S LATEST men's fragrance, Allure de Chanel, is the brand's first fragrance since 2003's Allure Homme Sport and its first major master brand since 1990's Egoiste.

Its launch, therefore, is an event not only for the prestigious brand, but also for an industry hungry for more aromatic heroics. So lets then master director Martin Scorsese has lent his cinematic genius to the visually stunning commercial that supports Allure de Chanel's introduction to the market.

The first step to describe this new masculine scent is mouth, handsome and effective. While many of the classic men's offerings from this timeless brand has been geared towards a more grizzled and formal sensibility, Allure is decidedly younger and fresh.

Chanel house nose Jacques Polge mixes the mix with citrus top notes. The result conjures images of orange and lemon trees and is accompanied by the zesty inclusion of grapefruit and pink peppers.

Following this sensory rave through an imaginary orchard is the foundation of woody elements. Cedar, nutmeg, and sandal wood give the scent heart and warmth, grounding the fragrance and exuding overall masculinity. This careful play on citrus and woody is completed with exotic patchouli and frankincense.

Adventurous

The modern gentleman, unlike those in past decades, is no longer confined by the norms of society...he is adventurous, a traveler, a breaker of rules even while maintaining his integrity and elaborate sophistication.

The folks at Chanel want Allure to fit a younger crowd drawn to the brand's history of quality. It was created as appeal to their exciting and evolved lifestyles, whether mingling with society in urban hot spots or partaking in an adventurous escape to the Far East.

Like its predecessor, Allure, likes molecules a strong masculine and angular quality in its packaging—a square-like glass flacon but with shades of slate gray and midnight blue reminiscent of a dark urban cityscape.

The darkness and gloominess of the bottle is a something new for the brand, which has often favored more traditionally elegant shapes and appearances. The bottle's contemporary design is topped off with a functional and novel magnetic cap.

Free hand

Chanel gave Scorsese a free hand when it came to directing the film. The ad shows French actor and rising international star Gaspard Ulliel chasing a beautiful blonde down a city street and losing her as the rest loses a train station.

Then, cut to Ulliel in a press conference in a blue light filled glass conference hall. He's seated in front of journalists who seem to want to know the answers to one question, but the man can't seem to focus. He is distracted by the memory of that woman, being on a train with her. Finding her in a cafe, taking her photos, walking in the rain in the cafe.

He is surprised to see the blonde in the crowd. He leans over and announces to the throng, "I'm not going to be the man I'm expected to be anymore." He stared at silently, the audience around him collapse and he walks away from the scene as a voiceover declares: "Be Unexpected."

The story is essentially about struggling to break out of a routine, to move beyond life's norms of events and to attain freedom. What is commendable is the director Baz- and signature markings of boisterous as well as the consistency of the color blue throughout this short film.

CHARMIE SY

GROOMSMAN

LA Conning Lopez

CAMILLE Prats-Lhuengpo

CARLA Pernia

So your man has foot fetish

WHERE WE GO to look our best, we tend to miss out a few parts. One of them are feet that don't always get the priority they deserve. We chose to jam little shoes in shoes and socks so we don't get self-conscious about them.

But don't take them for granted. Many men have fallen in love with someone with beautiful feet.

Gist is point: the movie "Boomerang." Eddie Murphy's character would judge women by their feet believe it or not, his love bride is not uncommon among men today. A lot of 99-spins men take a look at girls' feet because this reveals a girl's overall hygiene. So don't leave "Blumentrieze in your bed" unchecked. Be sure to give your feet their fair share of attention.

BACKSTAGE PASS

Isabel Hacos

Tips

- Start by trimming toenails. Don't let your nails grow to the point where they snag hosiery and socks. Keep them trimmed straight across with short side angles. Use nail clippers and perhaps file the rough edges for smooth finish.
- Check for fungicide and split nails. Depending on how fast your nails grow, schedule a trim every week or so, or see a professional pedicurist while having your hair done in the salon.
- Check your feet for cuts and bruises. These can usually be fixed off or soaked away in warm water using a feminine Calhoun ointment likely soap pair on the roughest parts of the foot (which receive the most wear or contact with the ground), soften from going barefoot or doing a lot of walking or running.

Heels, pads, and small socks are common sites for calluses, which is really nothing more than dead or dry skin. While you're at it, look for blisters, corns, or Hunter's warts and treat them with the correct applications or over-the-counter remedies.

- Paint your toenails. If you don't like color, use a clear coat of polish to keep nails from splitting or cracking. Try a shade that matches your fingernails and lipstick. A double coat helps to prevent chipping or wearing of paint. You can change the color to match any outfit or style, especially in the summer or in warm climates where people are more likely to go barefoot and show off bare feet.
- Treat fungus. If your toenails are chipped, pitted or yellow, you may have a toenail fungus. This can be treated in various ways. Some cases do not with prescription pills and the area with a bandage wrap for a few days. Your doctor can prescribe an antifungal cream which can take several months to work. In extreme cases the nail can be removed. Look for athlete's foot while you're at it, as well as any other signs of fungal growth or skin disorders, and treat them promptly.
- Bathe and moisturize your feet daily. Frequent showers or baths help keep your feet smelling, feeling, and smelling good. Wash them with soap and water

SEE PAGE E3

GIORDANO
WIN WHEN YOU SHOP
ANNIVERSARY RAFFLE PROMO
OCTOBER 1 - NOVEMBER 30, 2010
For every P1,000 purchase, Giordano customers can avail of 1 raffle ticket.
Draw dates are as follows:
SEE POSTERS FOR MORE DETAILS

McDonald's celebrates World Teacher's Day with free Upgrades

In line with World Teacher's Day this October 5, McDonald's is one with Filipinos and the whole world in honoring our beloved teachers. From October 1 to 15, teachers will be treated with Free McDonald's Upgrades of World Famous French Fries and any Coca-Cola product to go with their favorite McDonald's value meals.

McDonald's gave out free Fries and drink Upgrade coupons in different schools as a special treat to our very hard-working educators. Teachers can simply present these coupons or their teacher's ID when they order in participating McDonald's restaurants nationwide.

McDonald's leads the way in expressing gratitude and appreciation to our mentors who have become day-to-day heroes in our midst. To all our models of educational excellence, Happy Teacher's Day!

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Bulgari's new Astrale jewelry gives out luminous energy

CREATED IN 2004, the Astrale collection has always played on the combination of circular elements encrusted in diamond pavé.

The new matched set of ring, necklace and earrings uses diamonds of different sizes mounted on elements that seemingly follow the body's movement, letting the stones give out their luminous energy.

The new additions in the Astrale collection are ideal for special occasions.

Available at Bulgari boutiques, Greenbelt 4 (tel. 7285061-62) and 8755 Ayala Shopping Arcade (tel. 8903188, 7528195).

Longchamp reinvents the Gatsby

LONGCHAMP reinvents an icon in its latest collection of Gatsby. The goes hand in hand with new, sleek and bright interiors of its newly opened boutique at Rustan's Makati.

For the first time, the Gatsby steps out as a city-street handbag on a short chain-and-leather shoulder strap. The line's signature square look is reinterpreted in the sharply angular metal links, bringing a graphic urban edge to the design.

A neat flap conceals a front pocket, while a zippered pocket on the back and others inside ensure that the bag is roomy enough for every day.

There's also the matching Gatsby all-in-one, Longchamp's cult wallet/document holder that keeps all essentials safe, organized and in one place.

For evening, the chic new Gatsby clutch has a removable shoulder strap, fit to be carried on the shoulder, in the hand or around the wrist.

The Gatsby Luxe handbag is in leopard-style lambskin. The Gatsby Rêves is a precious patchwork of different leathers —python-style buffalo, suede calf leather and lambskin. Gatsby Rêves is in all-black, rich mauve and grey monochrome.

Accessory style-statement shade is deep, rich red.

Longchamp is exclusively available at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La and Ayala Center, Cebu.

Furne One stages gala

The first Filipino designer to be invited to the London Fashion Week stages grand homecoming show

INTERNATIONAL FILIPINO fashion designer Furne One ranges his first Manila gala, "Furni of One-A Fashion Collection by Furne One" Oct. 9, 7 p.m., at Makati Shangri-La.

Presented by Inquirer Lifestyle columnist Tessa Prieto-Valdes and philanthropist Reye Thoja, the show is for the benefit of Philippine National Red Cross-Binal Chapter and the Assumption High School-batch 1981 Foundation.

FURNE 01

TV HOST Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Kapa Tingo

INTERNATIONAL Filipino designer Furne One with supermodel Heidi Klum

Furne One stages gala

Homepage F1

The show to One's debut in Manila after relocating in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, more than 10 years ago.

He will also hold a mini fashion show Oct. 10, also at Makati Shangri-La, for fashion and design aficionados.

The shows feature One's latest collection, "Blue and Brown," inspired by the Mediterranean Age.

The designs are richly decorated and sensuous like in bare fabrics such as French lace, silk and taffeta incorporated with lavish beadwork and embroidery. Lights touch tones are complemented by gold and silver, with subtle hints of nude, beige, cream and eggshell white. His darker shades are oblivion and sepia.

"With this collection, I hope to be a part of Philippine fashion's evolution," One said. "Filipino women have long been influenced by American minimalist or casual fashion, and have always preferred safer style choices. So I hope to open their eyes to other, more exciting possibilities. After all, fashion is all about esteem, indulgence and fun."

One (pronounced oh-nay) has been reaping raves in Dubai for over 10 years. Before relocating, he won the Miga Young Designer of the Philippines award in 1999, paving the way for apprenticeship at the House of Christian Lacroix in Paris and at Jude Nasser's boutique in New York.

After his stint abroad, One joined prestigious competitions—Japan's Whatto's Wear Award, Asian Fashion Grand Prix Cannes and Manila's Fashion Designer Awards.

In 2006, One got the chance to design for Swarovski, bridal gowns for its presidential suitemate's look "Unbridled." He who got to work with supermodel Heidi Klum when he designed the fashion dresses for the season finale of "Germany's Next Top Model."

There, he was chosen by famous German actress Michelle Gruchy run Faber-Castell to dress her for her critically acclaimed play "Indecisions." This was followed by invitations to fashion shows all over the globe, such as Miami Fashion Week, where he bagged the Designer's Choice Award; LA Fashion Week, and Berlin Fashion Week.

Most recently, One became the first Filipino to be invited to present in London Fashion Week.

"First of One-A Fashion Collection by Furne One" is sponsored by Etihad Airways and Mega Magazine, with ASBC, Smart Infinity, SM, Shopwise and Makati Shangri-La. Call Maggie Gomez at 8917-8703/5703

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LOOK OUT for straight, slim and skinny jeans for men from Bakroo, SM's in-house label. With its dark blue and black hues, Bakroo jeans are ideal for creating a fresh urban look anytime.

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WELCOME TO INDONESIA AT THE SM MALL OF ASIA

His Excellency Indonesian Ambassador Y. Kristiarto Legowo with his wife Camilla.

Former Netherlands Ambassador Theo Arnold with his wife Beth Victoria.

Malaysians got a rare glimpse of Indonesia during the recent Welcome to Indonesia event at the SM Mall of Asia.

The two day event showcased scenic photographs of Indonesia's natural attractions like the Tirtgana Cave, the Medan Waterfalls in Sumatra, beautiful Bali, the Madai Waterfalls of Sumatra, sunset at Bunaken Island, and diving in the Banda Seas in sprinkled. It also featured cultural highlights like the Prambanan Temples, the Barong Dance of Bali, as well as a look at modern Indonesia like the inner-city that connects Jakarta to Yogyakarta.

Welcome Indonesia also featured cultural performances by the Indonesian Chorale Group, the Indonesian students Dance Group, and Kwartet Batak.

HE Indonesian Ambassador Y. Kristiarto Legowo and his wife Camilla, as well as HE Cambodian Ambassador Hor Sereyboth led the dignitaries that attended the event. Others included Vietnamese Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Pham Hau, former Netherlands Ambassador Theo Arnold and wife Beth Victoria, and AFP Chief of Staff General Ricardo David, Jr. and his wife Merlu.

Indonesian embassy officials and members of the Indonesian community in Manila came in full force - Deputy Chief of Mission Abdullah Kusumaningrang, Education Attache Ira Hapsary, Endang Wahyuningsih, Dwiningrum Ahimsa, and Nelly Ginseng. SM executives VP for Marketing Millie Dizon and SM Mall of Asia Mall Managers Perkin Eo and Nona Reyes welcomed them.

Welcome to Indonesia is one of the many exciting events at the SM Mall of Asia.

H.E. Cambodian Ambassador Hor Sereyboth, Indonesian Deputy of Mission Abdullah Kusumaningrang with SM VP for Marketing Millie Dizon

Indonesian Education Attache Ira Hapsary, Camilla Legowo, Endang Wahyuningsih, Dwiningrum Ahimsa, and Nelly Ginseng.

A member of Sanggar Budaya performs one of Indonesia's cultural dance numbers

The Pendet Dance performance by the Sanggar Budaya group

His Excellency Indonesian Ambassador Y. Kristiarto Legowo with the Sanggar Budaya (Indonesian Students) Dance Group)

Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX)

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My warmest greetings to the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) as you hold your 2018 FINEX National Conference.

The men and women of FINEX are a pivotal role in fostering the economic and leading dream new dimensions for business enterprises in the Philippines. We are glad to have you with us as we pursue our vision of an integrated and wildly shared and appreciate of our economic progress for a government dedicated to honing and refining our people's skills and strengths.

Your conference theme, "An attitude shift and change of policies," is very timely as we celebrate our nation's history. We have embarked on a challenge of transformation – to pursue good governance, to implement much-needed reforms, and to finally put the Filipino people on top of the national agenda. That is a huge responsibility and we, individual men do this alone. Thank you for being part of our movement for change.

The situation is not what it was before – thanks to trailing transparency. May we always come true to the principles that inspire us to value the strength and righteousness which God allows us to hold the course despite the challenges we might encounter.

Mabuhay!

BONGBONG MARCOS
President
Republic of the Philippines

An attitude shift and change of policies

FINEX anticipates the swing of the financial pendulum

By Michelle Ndera

THE 2019 administration comes with the greatest expectations.

Many Filipinos are clamoring for a better Philippines since the inception of the new government. They believe that good changes are finally going to happen in the country among the biggest anticipations is a stronger economy, which simmers that we are able to mobilize the necessary resources to further boost our economic standing.

In this quest, the key industry players need to know and understand the economic landscape of our nation, especially vis-à-vis the biggest and most competitive economies in the world. How are they doing and how do we learn from them? Does the global financial arena provide a level-playing field between developed and developing countries? How will the country prepare itself in the new challenges and big changes to the game, especially when good governance is highly demanded?

The Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX), in its 42nd FINEX Conference, aims to answer all these questions and address other relevant issues that will arise. Investors and members in the financial industry for various banking. With this year's FINEX Week theme, "Pursuing for Change," FINEX mapped out plans, gathered trusted experts in the field amidst one real to a week of productive discussions, and carried with it the methods and advice to overcome the paramount challenges that will bring massive changes in the country.

"There is still the business challenges of coming out of an economic crisis," said Greg Navarro, FINEX president. "It means that things have to change—regulatory wise, political wise, legal wise. All of these are changing and you could expect that there will probably be more. The standards have to change, and everything will have to be learned again," he added.

Navarro believes that "everybody has a renewed hope with this administration" and with the mandate that the Aquino government has received, there is reason enough to hope that change for the better will happen. "We have promised good governance. Being running on/legal, seeking mahirap. So hopefully, everybody will get on board, and try to deliver on that promise. That means every one of us will also do our bit to change and help the country," Navarro added.

Harbingers of change

FINEX banks on the need for new policies and stronger partnerships in both the public and private sectors to prepare for the bigger challenges ahead. Political maturity of industrial will are essential elements to achieve this goal. During the conference, they identified key issues that need to be addressed like climate change, doing business in the Philippines from the foreign investor's perspective, the trend of infrastructure technology is "the greatest enabler," the significance of sound financial education and the call to improve the level of expertise among professionals to better respond to the challenges of the times.

FINEX recognizes the level of competence that Filipinos already have. However, continuous education is still a vital part of financial development as we need to make the most of our talents to be at par with the level of the world. "There's a lot of hope and optimism particularly when we talk to the young people. They are very creative and innovative. They have also recognized the value of social entrepreneurship now that the business trend leans more towards doing well while doing good. And that's the kind of change and this optimistic about," Navarro shared.

Key industries were also identified which require the economy's improvement to become more advantageous in the economy. These include agriculture, tourism, infrastructure and those that address the basic necessities of life: water and energy.

According to Lydia Ortiz, FINEX Committee Head on Technical Session, the government has to be very active in taking lead to attend to these needs. "It can be in collaboration with the private sector, or government financial institutions working together with donor agencies, and other possible partnerships," Ortiz shared. "It is also important on the part of the government to be considered because its women look at stability as an important factor of any economic policy, meaning: for you will not be changing the rules in the middle or end of the game."

"It is a team effort. You cannot expect one person to do everything for you," she added. "If you're put one person in the wilderness, it is so hard to change because we have to make it happen together."

That is why Committee Chairman Thaza Marcos Jr. urges FINEX to continue by "doing the right things right" which is its overarching theme for the whole year. As a community of financial experts, FINEX builds strong leaders to become catalysts for change and innovation initiatives, and foster fidelity to high ethical standards and commitment to excellence. Dario believes that we need to leverage on these capabilities since "our economic foundation is already good, given the good financial accomplishments that the previous administration has provided for the new government to continue."

FINEX has high hopes about the country's global competitiveness that will elevate the standards of good governance and financial soundness of our nation. It is ultimately about going down to basics and taking them to consideration in everything we do. Navarro believes that "you have to have good information, because you cannot make any decision without having good information. If you don't have the talent, you could buy the talent. Invest or outsource who knows and can help."

He added, "Overall, it is all about risk management. A system or structure that will determine what could go wrong and how to curb, effective willing to want to not go wrong. You need to identify the critical success factors, much like how a simple savi-ani store assesses if a person is credit worthy or not, or what to stock because its saleable or what value added services it can offer to convince more customers."

When asked if the Philippines will be financially okay for the years to come, FINEX is positive about it. "The GDP growth is good, and the stock market is doing well, inflation seems to be more controlled, the peso is strong, the administration of President Noynoy Aquino has generated a lot of goodwill, and it has a clear mandate from the Filipino people. All these as well as other economic indicators are telling us that things will get better."

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Call for indie film entries to MMFF

THE METRO Manila Film Festival (MMFF) invites independent Filipino filmmakers to submit entries to the film fest's full-length feature films category or the Philippine Independent Filmmakers Mid-Length Competition. Deadline for entries is on Dec. 24. Selected films will have two premiere night screenings in Metro Manila between Dec. 25 and 26. Call 367-0377 or 0922-808-9976.

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NEWPORT CINEMAS

PDI visits 'Glee' set

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Rydeen V. Nepudes

LOS ANGELES—Just how successful is "Glee"?

Last Sunday morning, we were in the hand-me-downs set built specifically for the hit show on Stonehenge 10 at the Paramount Studios lot. As we entered to interview the main cast, it looked like any typical high school set. But after emerging from a wooden ramp, we were suddenly inside a theater, complete with a stage, orchestra pit, lights and rows of seats.

"We don't have to go to Long Beach anymore," chirped Lea Michele, referring to the city where they used to shoot scenes on an actual campus. Lea, who was not filming this morning, was one of the first among the cast to walk in. Thanks to its phenomenal success, "Glee" now has two and a half soundstages, one of which houses this theater set built to match the auditorium in Long Beach. Like pretty much everyone else, the actress who plays Rachel Berry and the rest of the cast and staff welcomed us to their choir room, saying that we were the first from the outside world to step into this set where they shot the much-awaited "Rocky Horror Picture Show" tribute episode earlier.

Favorite label

Lea told us that her character, then, was about as a nearby school. As Lea said, with a smile, that they no longer have to commute, our wife Janet noticed that the actress' shirt dress looked familiar. "The label is Burberry," Lea replied when asked who she was wearing, adding that it is one of her favorite labels. But Burberry just happens to be a line by Christopher Bailey, a Los Angeles-based Hispanic-American designer whose awards include California's "Designer of the Year" and was one of the finalists in the first Oscars De-signer Challenge. Alan's Burberry dresses—one sold in top stores and boutiques in the United States.

When we told Lea that in our recent interview with "American Idol" director Michael Bloyes in New York, he proudly said that he was her in "Spring Awakening" when she was only 14 years old, she felt glad. She excitedly said, "My boyfriend (Theo Stockman) is on American Idol!"

Ryan Murphy, "Glee's" executive producer/writer/director (below), happily relaxed things

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'Complete creative freedom' in TV5 shows

By Marinel R. Cruz

WILLIE REVILLAME has been given "complete creative freedom" as host and co-producer of the game show "Willing Willie," TV5 Creative and Entertainment Production head Percival Intalan told INQUIRER on Monday.

TV5, through chair Manuel V. Pangilinan, recently signed a co-production deal with Revillame's Wil Production Inc. "Willing Willie" is scheduled to premiere third week of October in a slot that pits it directly with the evening news programs of ABS-CBN ("TV Patrol") and GMA-7 ("24 Oras"). Also in the works, said Intalan, is "Born to be a Star," a talent show with Revillame as host.

"Willie is the best choice for these shows," said Dolores Barrios, TV5 executive vice president and chief operating officer. "We believe in handling creative people like him in a way that's comfortable for all." Revillame hosted the top-rating ABS-CBN game show "Wowowee" before it went off the air in August.

Will Revillame be allowed to engage in "casual advertising" as he did in "Wowowee?"

Barrios said, "We stretch it as a casual deal with Willie, different from how his deal with ABS-CBN." He did not elaborate.

WILLIE Revillame: "Blow-dryer"

Beefing up news

Barrios said the network is also beefing up its news department "in a major way." He explained: "We recently bought 45 cameras and we're buying more vehicles. We also bought a news automation system. Everything will soon be fully digital. We're hiring more reporters and line-casting operations so we can improve news

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PDI visits ...

From page G1

discovered by coproducer Ian Bernardo...then the desire to inspiring students to take part in music programs, leads to play instruments and sing, join choirs and theatre groups. Ryan, who also directed Julia Roberts' "Eat Pray Love," announced that they will hold an audition in which returning Idolism will have their names inscribed on the seats in this theater, with proceeds going to arts programs in California and the Pinoy Endowment for the Arts.

Ryan then presented a mini show, introducing Matthew Wardman and teasing him about their similar black and white gingham shirts. Mr. Salsar, hailed by a pianist, was outborne personified in his rendition of "On the Street Where You Live." Amber Riley electrified the house with her stirring version of "Bridge Over Troubled Water." Lea sang the title song from "Funny Girl" with Ryan and Matthew.

Choreographed number

The curtains closed and then opened with the sight of Chris Collins and 10 dancers (which included Harry Shum Jr., who plays Abbie Chang), in top hats and full costumes. To a fully choreographed number, Chris sang "Le Jazz Hot" from "Victor/Victoria," a grand finale to the short show. This piece will be in a duet-themed episode airing the first week of November.

The interviews followed with the cast divided into two panels. Gary Memmili, Lea, Kevin McHale, Amber and Matthew made up the first group. The second panel was composed of Mark Salling, Dianna Agron, Jenna Ushkowitz, Heather Morris and Chris Colfer. Jane Lynch was absent at McKinley High this morning. Only the main cast was included in these interviews as Chandler Penn-gasgas was not around. But we asked Ryan and the cast about her. We'll be running about the interviews in coming columns. Here are just some of our random scoops:

Ryan disclosed that his "Eat Pray Love" write-credit, Javier Bardem, will guest and play a Spanish rock star in "Glee."

Chelsea has already shot some scenes where she sang ballads, including hits by Celine Dion. We'll see more of the Filipina in later episodes, especially in the "Glee" Adrenalin Rave Directions duet battles.

Concert film

Even Dee Jones, the new female football team coach, will sing. Ryan firmly said "no" to a "Glee" narrative move, but maybe "yes" to a concert film.

Lea remembered growing up in a town where many girls were having teen jobs. The actress' mom reminded her that Barbara Streisand, her idol, never had one.

Lea also recalled a music teacher who was "awful" to her, but she came watching a TV news show recently and saw that teacher being interviewed and identifying Lea as her best student. "I was never in love in my whole life," Lea admitted. "She was not very nice."

She also revealed that the unit's second year will include shows outside of the United States. For the cast, the surprising night of Ryan...is a yellow robe, dancing and singing there in the Straits of their late soon's final night, was memorable.

Rivkin, who sees shorts on Tuesdays did, until Lea's new one's, is still not used to reading his friends' Facebook status updates like "I can't wait to watch 'Glee'!" "I'm on that show!" to expressed amusement that he is part of a popular show. His appreciation that this is "one kids dream of doing and yes, he and the cast get to do it "every single day."

Amber is similarly amused that her friends are Glenks and hold "Glee" viewing parties. But they tell her, "It's not because you are in the show. We just like it." According to her, one benefit of the show's popularity is that she is able to help raise funds for charity, like adding the homeless.

No bitter?

The singer-actress, believe it or not, does not consider herself a belter. But her numbers on the show are tapping the belting power in her.

Dianna, lovely and fashionably dressed as usual, is back and when watching, also noted that, "suddenly people want to interview you."

Cory is moved by how the show is influencing kids to be involved in arts and music courses.

Mark quipped that despite the show's success, he's still living in his cheap "ghetto" apartment. He joked that he makes sure his grandma watches every "Glee" episode, even if a few minutes after the episode...she has forgotten everything about the show.

He has been told by folks that he resembles that "guy from 'Glee.'"

Matthew likes to crown "Singing in the Rain" in the shower. The choir coach will sing that classic song in a future episode.

Hiatus

Chris laughingly recounted that he has been held hostage in an elevator by screaming girl fans. Instead of pictures with him in exchange for his release, but the girls were too excited to remember that detail. He was amused. "How can you get mad at people who love you?" he remarked.

Heather thinks it would be cool if her dad is played by Justin Timberlake. Jenna's dream team? Freddie Oh. Dianna's dream date? Christopher Pidlow. Mark simply wants any episode with Amy Winehouse. We love all these dream guest stars of theirs. We hope they all come true.

E-mail the columnist at reyspedro_12@yahoo.com

MATTHEW Morrison

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

'Complete creative freedom' in TV5 shows

Foreign G2

The network hopes to build its own stable of talents

gathering and preproduction by tropical hotcoals." A new studio in Mandaluyong City will soon be opened, he added.

The Broadway Centrum studio in Quezon City will be home to three TV5 shows—"905," "Star Factor" and "Noo se Pare," Iturralde reported.

Iturralde commented on "Noo se Pare," a show hosted by Amy Perez and patterned after the US tabloid talk program "The Jerry Springer Show," where quarreling neighbors confront one another. The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board recently called the network's attention after viewers complained of violence in the show.

"In a meeting with the board, we explained that it was incumbent that it was to establish or run into incidents, given the nature of the projects," Iturralde related. "Now we make sure every episode ends in a resolution."

Perez was a perfect pick for "Noo se Pare," said Iturralde. "Other networks reportedly wanted to create rival shows but their big challenge was finding the right host."

Iturralde also had nothing but praise for Ryan Agoncillo, host of the talent search program "Entertaining Pinoy." He said, "He's not an exclusive talent but he's kept his word like a real gentleman. He promised to stay with 'Talentadong' ABS-CBN gave him 'Pare' and then 'Noo Pare.' We simply worked around his schedule."

TV5 hopes to build its own stable of talents through the talent search "Star Factor," said Iturralde. Cactus director Jacqui Gamboa is head of the talent management division.

Meanwhile, Showmethatboy, the network's movie arm, is producing "Bonanza," an entry to the 2010 Metro Manila Film Festival in December. Albert Martinez directs.

Also coming soon is an international TV channel. Meanwhile, as PM station, Radyo5 92.3, starts broadcasting today.

POWER PLANT CINEMA

LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE (3D) – PG
12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10, 11:55 AM

WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS – PG13
12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30

CHARLIE ST. CLOUD – PG13
1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10, 10:30

LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE (IN 3D) – G
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

I DO – G
12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55, 10:25

WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS – PG13
1:35, 4:05, 9:30

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1 WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS / PG-13 10:45, 1:45
2 LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS 12:45, 3:15, 5:45
3 LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS 3D 3D / PG 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
4 CHARLIE ST. CLOUD / PG-13 11:40, 1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:45
5 DEVIL / PG-13 8:05, 10:15

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CHARLIE ST. CLOUD
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THE TOWN

NOW SHOWING
DEVIL
PG-13

Concert promoters at odds over tax

ADAM Lambert's concert is on Oct. 10 at the Mall of Asia.

By Pocholo Concepcion

TWO CONCERT promoters are at odds over an issue concerning the grant of amusement tax exemptions.

On Sept. 22 the bayanan reported on the alleged "tension" and "rivalry treatment" that Pebbs Uy, managing director of Regimental Twenty Plus Inc., experienced while applying for a permit and amusement tax exemption at the Pasay City Hall for the concert "LSC in the PICC."

Uy expressed disappointment that it took City Hall one month to issue the permit, which she said granted promotional plans for her production. Sponsors and media partners have reportedly backed out due to time constraints.

The show, which features pop singer Ogie Alcasid and composer-arranger-musical director Jonas Gayahyah, is set on Oct. 8 at the PICC.

Moreover, Uy asked lawmakers to look into the policy of granting amusement tax breaks. She said she had applied for an exemption because she intended to donate proceeds from her production to the Organizasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-awit.

Rejected

The application was rejected after Uy attended a "Pambilang" City Council hearing. She mentioned that another concert, set on Oct. 10 at the Mall of Asia, upon grounds featuring "Kontrabidad" runner-up Adam Lambert, was granted full exemption.

Section 140-A of Republic Act No. 7160 allows local governments to collect an amusement tax of 30 percent of gross receipts from cinematic houses, concert and music halls, stadiums and other entertainment venues.

Pasay City charges 3 percent amusement tax for concerts.

Denial

The levy, in principle, does not sit well with entertainment industry leaders, who allege that it stifles local creative production's exposure, aside from boosting corruption.

David Dalili, project manager of Blue Ocean Entertainment (BOE) which is executing the Lambert concert, phoned the bayanan to deny the tax exemption. "All we have is a business permit," said Dalili. "We still have to pay for amusement tax."

However, Uy insisted that she has full knowledge of the alleged tax exemption, citing direct conversations with BOE managing director Christian Andoy.

Uy said she personally knew Andoy—they had teamed up to stage a benefit show at the Solaire to Celebrate last year—and the one in their happy for him about the tax exemption.

But apparently the bayanan report was taken out of context and incensed Andoy, who, Uy said, sent her a barrage of text messages.

In a statement e-mailed to the bayanan on Sept. 28, Uy and her business partner, Gertrudis Honrado, stated their ground. "He (Andoy) informed me that they already got their permit and an exemption within two days after submitting their papers," said Uy.

"There mean I heard him screaming at Hilda that they were already exempt," said Honrado.

OGIE Alcasid performs with Ryan Cayabyab on Oct. 8 at the PICC.

'Banana Split' showing signs of age

ADAMS and pendeworm of hit TV film formats can't be blamed for hanging on to their popular productions through many seasons or sequels. But viewers can't be faulted for reaching their saturation or boredom point, and crying out, "Enough!"

For instance, we used to enjoy watching "Eraser" and the terrified fit delay of its true-life but brilliant resident nerds. But, after what feels like too many seasons on the rules, the old curmudgeon appears to have run out of new diseases to brilliantly diagnose, and is now flying off on all sorts of weird storytelling tangents to keep viewers interested—or appalled, as the case may be.

It must be said, however, that "House" has engendered a number of similarly-spirited riveting shows on TV, like "Royal Pains" and some series about nurses who are sassy and creative in their own right. So, we thank Dr House for his not so insignificant contributions to pop culture, as we wish him Godspeed—and good health!

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

On the local side, the recently shown "Banana Split" is showing signs of "no- age and recreative that should be acknowledged and addressed. It isn't easy being "funny" written, and the wear and tear—and the stretch marks—are showing.

The performers try to add to the "fun" by being droll and hysterical, but that only aggravates the problems.

Worst feature

Its worst feature is a "character" game that's supposed to be funny but definitely isn't, as its young "comedians" melt do "funny" ad-libs and tend to be fully tempted to get their act together—well, sort of.

What to do? Cut the three down to fewer minutes, so the production team has more time to think up really funny routines. Finding and developing really gifted young comics could also help—but, is the production willing to make the extra effort?

Well, it has no choice on the matter, since some of its regulars have already opted out of the show. Do they know something that the others don't?

Also: remember for us rule is the once funny "Mr. Bean" series, both in its live and animated versions. The problem with this series is the limited nature of Rowan Atkinson's caped episodes. After too many replays, they simply aren't that funny anymore.

Another show we desperately want to bid bye-bye to is "The Buried Life Project," all about an ostensibly famous "stylist to the stars" and her high-strung efforts to keep female stars looking stunning on the red carpet during awards shows.

Into for all those reality shows and spin-offs about the fatefulness, who are so self-absorbed that they don't even realize that they're boring viewers in the mega-millions. Enough!

JASON Gainza and Angelica Panganiban as Bay and Kris in "Banana Split"

Editor Bonnie D. Valuerde
ENTERTAINMENT
Living Stars

A stickler for the simple and stylish

Rox Montealegre says it's all about wearing one's self-confidence

By Rhoderick Dan Dingal Jr.
Photos by Jon Gonzales Pamuybuyen

STARSTRUCK V" finalist Rox Montealegre confessed—"I love classics."

She was apparently referring to her collection of stainless and accessories from abroad. But she could have been alluding to her fashion sense as well.

She revealed that her "personal style" couldn't be found "in an artist. I always try to look different. But I stick to the simple and stylish."

She's also a potential shopper.

She offers an unsolicited advice to other women: "If you are still dressing your style, find true improvement. Mix and match. But don't lose yourself in trends."

In the end, she said, it's all about wearing the best accessory of all: "Your self-confidence."

Shoes

She's a self-confessed shoe-a-holic.

"I have no problem wearing killer heels," she quipped.

She buys shoes at People des People and Aldo. Pumps, stilettos and platforms, you name it, she has it.

"Kids shoes are expensive. But I get mine on sale, 20 percent off," she said.

The stuff on that shoes, she discovered Lipa, a shoe store under Aldo (don't tell us prices).

With fashion, she presumed that her violet boots [from Louis Bubu] got worn out from all the walking she did in Paris. She lived in France as an exchange student in 2000.

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Gowns

She has been participating in Binibini festivals as a princess or queen since she was 5.

She owns some 20 gowns—most of which she designed herself with help from her mom and aunt.

"My aunt[s] do the styles and while[,] our designer friends ... to execute the gowns," she said.

"CHARMED" and "Gossip Girl" book covers

As an only daughter, she was her mom's living doll. "Mom loved dressing me up as a kid."

Among the fashion-alists list, however, part of her devotion to the Virgin Mary she pointed out. "I also wear the gowns for the Santo Rosario, a century-old tradition in our home province of Mindoro."

Watches

She has a dozens collection of time pieces.

A current favorite is a Gold Gucci. "It's stylish because my wrist [like a Chanel]. It's a gift from my mom," she said.

She explained that she keeps a wide array of watches to suit her varying moods.

"If ever ... from Disney to sporty that I always end up wearing classic pieces in gold or white gold," she noted. "I also have some gifts watches by Tory Hilton, along with vintage pocket watches from Posh the city."

Headbands

Those days, she's keen on wearing headbands.

"I got that from Blake, the lead character on

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A stickler...

From page 01

Gossip Girl," she said.

She had been a huge fan of "Gossip Girl" the book series long before it became a TV show.

"Some may think headbands are unruly and uncool, but for me it can also look sophisticated. Especially now that headbands are studded with gems and crystals," she said.

"My aunt owns a store in Greenhills. I get most of my accessories from her," she volunteered.

Bangles, Baubles

She has accessorized bracelets, bangles, bracelets and bands since joining show biz.

"For 1 don't wear them that often," she said. "I only get to try them on for shoots."

Scents

She favors fresh and light fragrances.

"My favorite is Green Tea by Elizabeth Arden," she said. "I want to smell like a baby. That's why I use Pigeon baby shampoo. I put on baby powder, too."

On nights out, she dabs on party scents: Paris Hilton and Bush by Victoria's Secret.

She likes Bath Treasure "it smells like fruit juice, very sweet."

ONE of the gowns she wears is signature avellanda

VINTAGE headgear is for special occasions only.

Souvenirs

She stay in Europe yielded lots of memories.

She misses the lace jacketed, along with the hand-painted masks, from Venice. Some gave the metronome here from Madrid.

She occasionally that she got an antique cookie jar or a train station in Brussels, while the massive resin souvenirs from the Moulin Rouge cabaret in Paris.

She also made it a point to buy refrigerator magnets of all the places she visited with her classmates.

Summing herself to the beauty of Europe stayed on the circle in her.

"I love grazing, dazzling, dreaming," she said. "On my 18th birthday I gave away my art works to the guests."

LACE for from Madrid

Rags

While in France, she saved up for her dream item: a Dooley Jean Hampstead.

"I got it from the main Louis Vuitton store on Champs-Elysees. It makes me nostalgic about our study tour," she said.

When she goes out with friends, she brings a black Nine Bird purse.

On school days, she lugs along a bright red Lacoste duffel bag. "It packs me up for my sports activities."

Books

She is a certified bookworm.

As a kid, she filled her shelf with over a hundred Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys titles.

As a tween, she discovered the "Gossip Girl" series.

Later on, she picked up the "Luxe" books: "It's a lot like 'Gossip Girl' but set in 19th century Manhattan."

Those novels are not just about glamour and designer labels, she said. "They're also about friendship."

Her idea of pure bliss is getting lost in a book the whole day in the privacy of her room.

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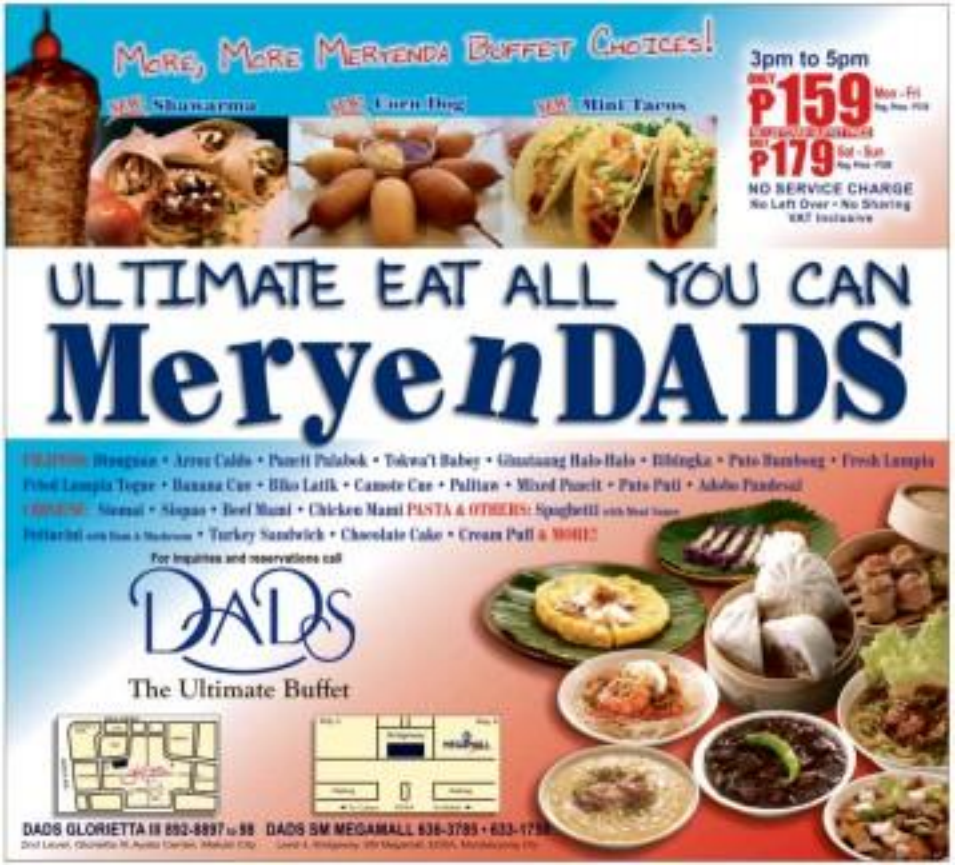
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